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DC COMICS™

the Vampire Diaries

volume 1

colleen Doran
b. clay Moore
tony Shasteen
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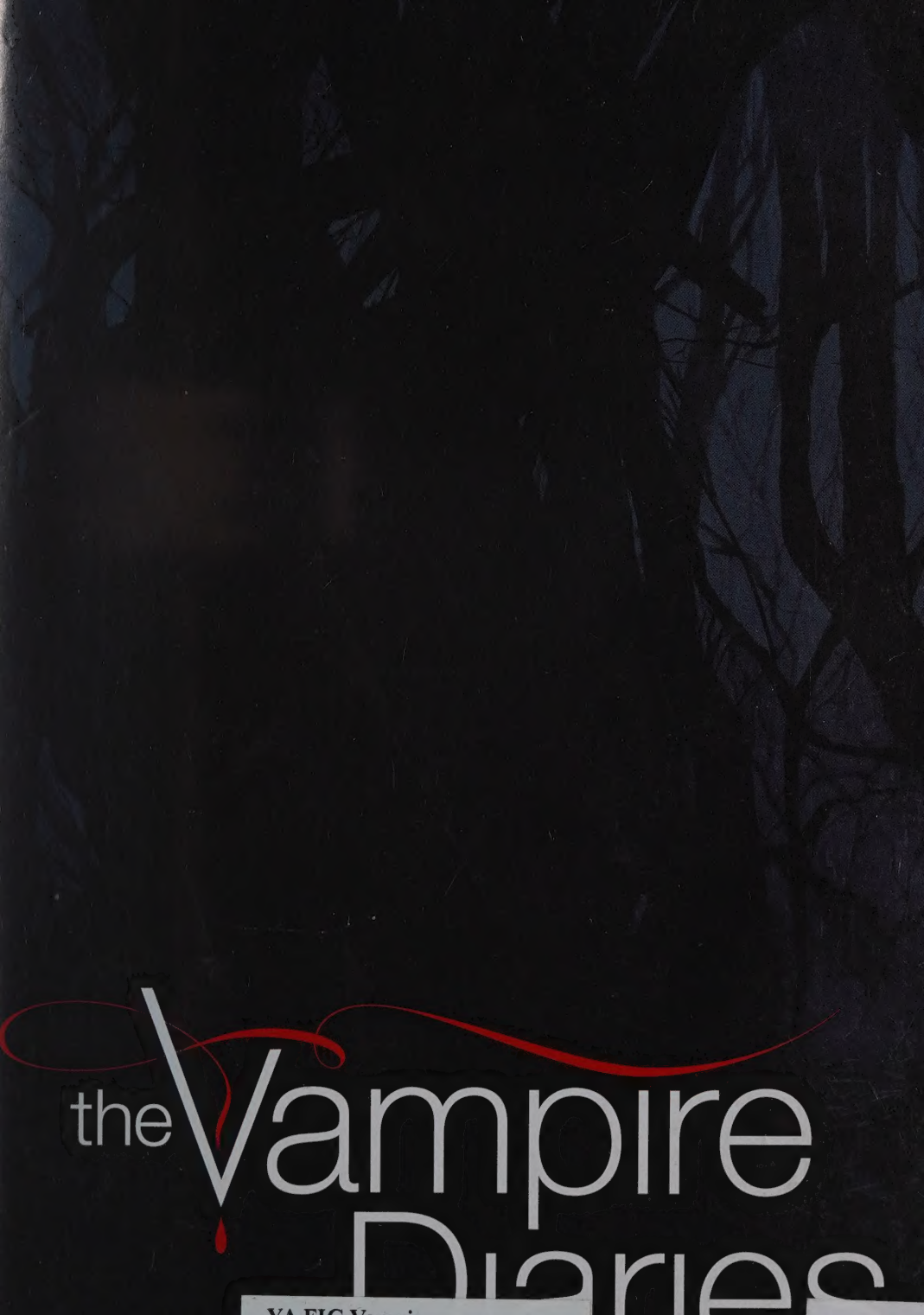
INSPIRED BY THE CW HIT SERIES



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THE VAMPIRE DIARIES VOLUME 1

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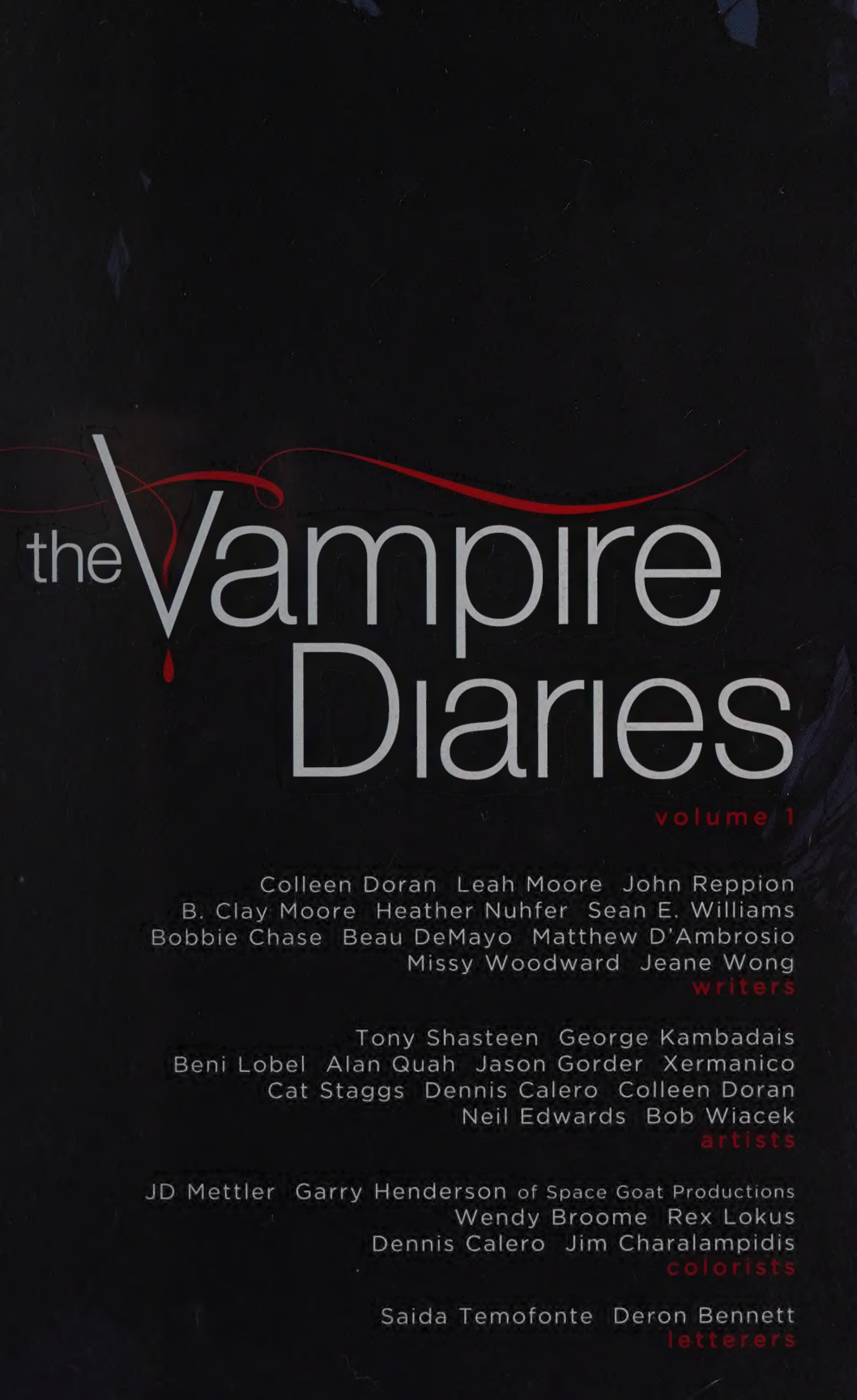
the Vampire Diaries
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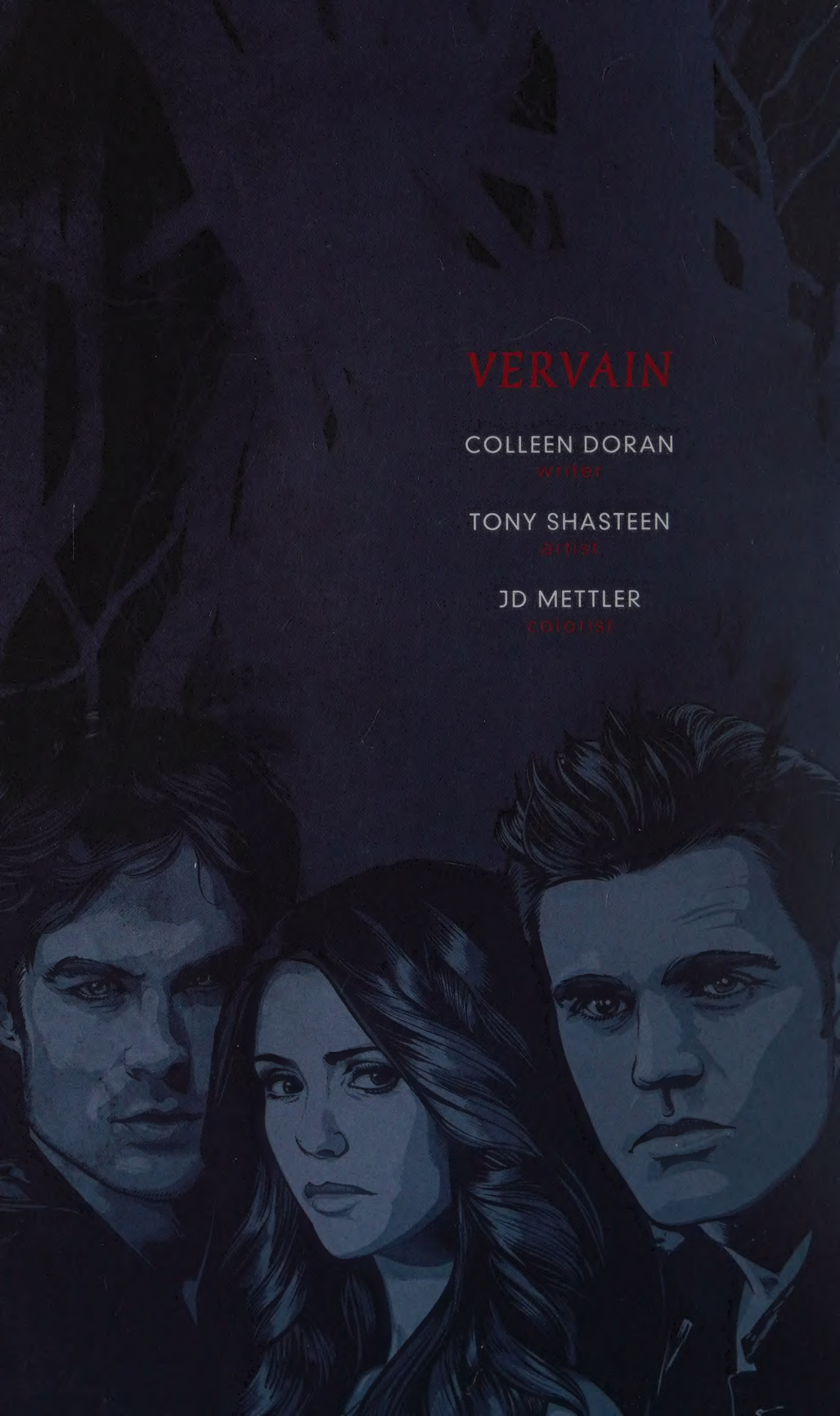
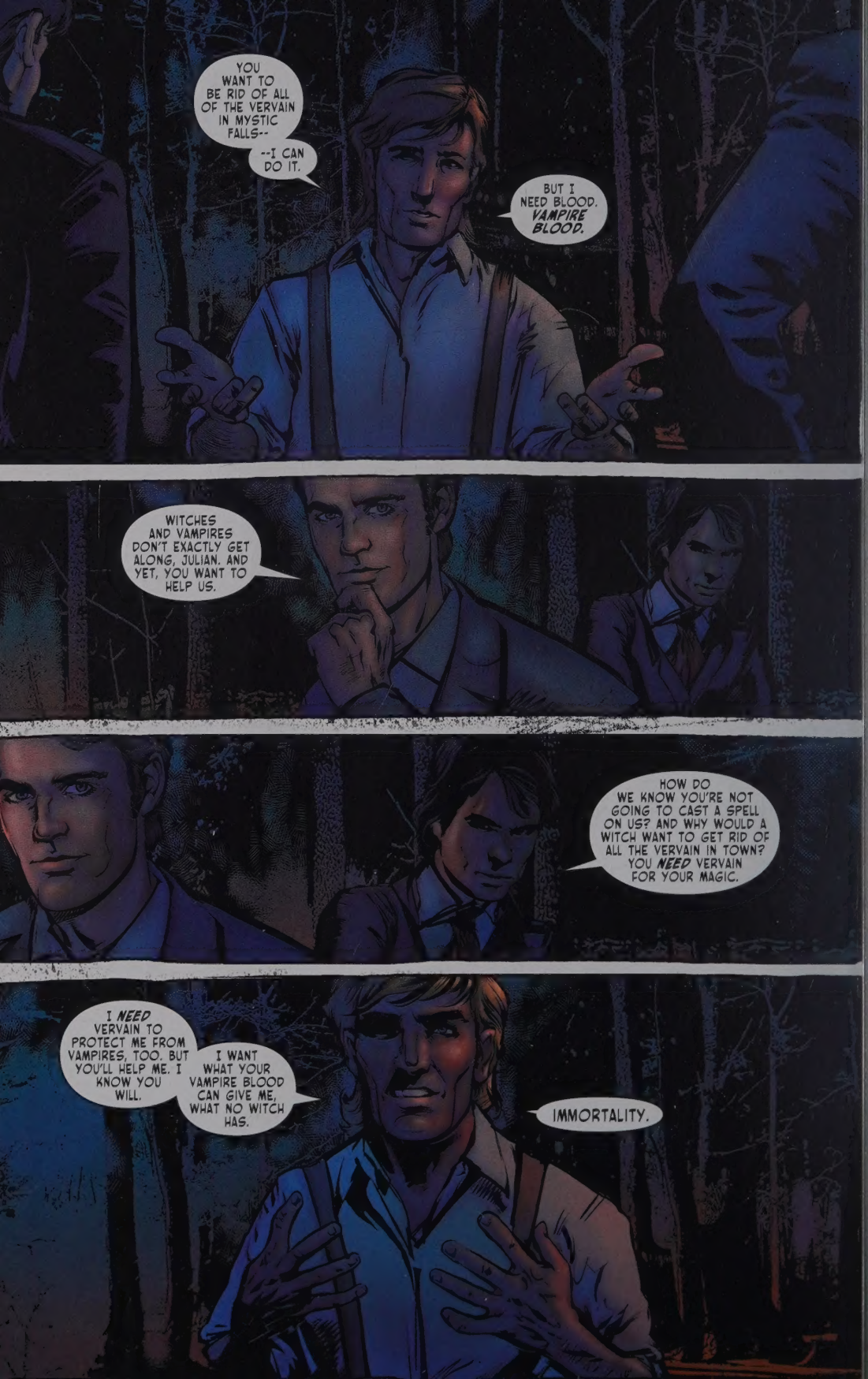
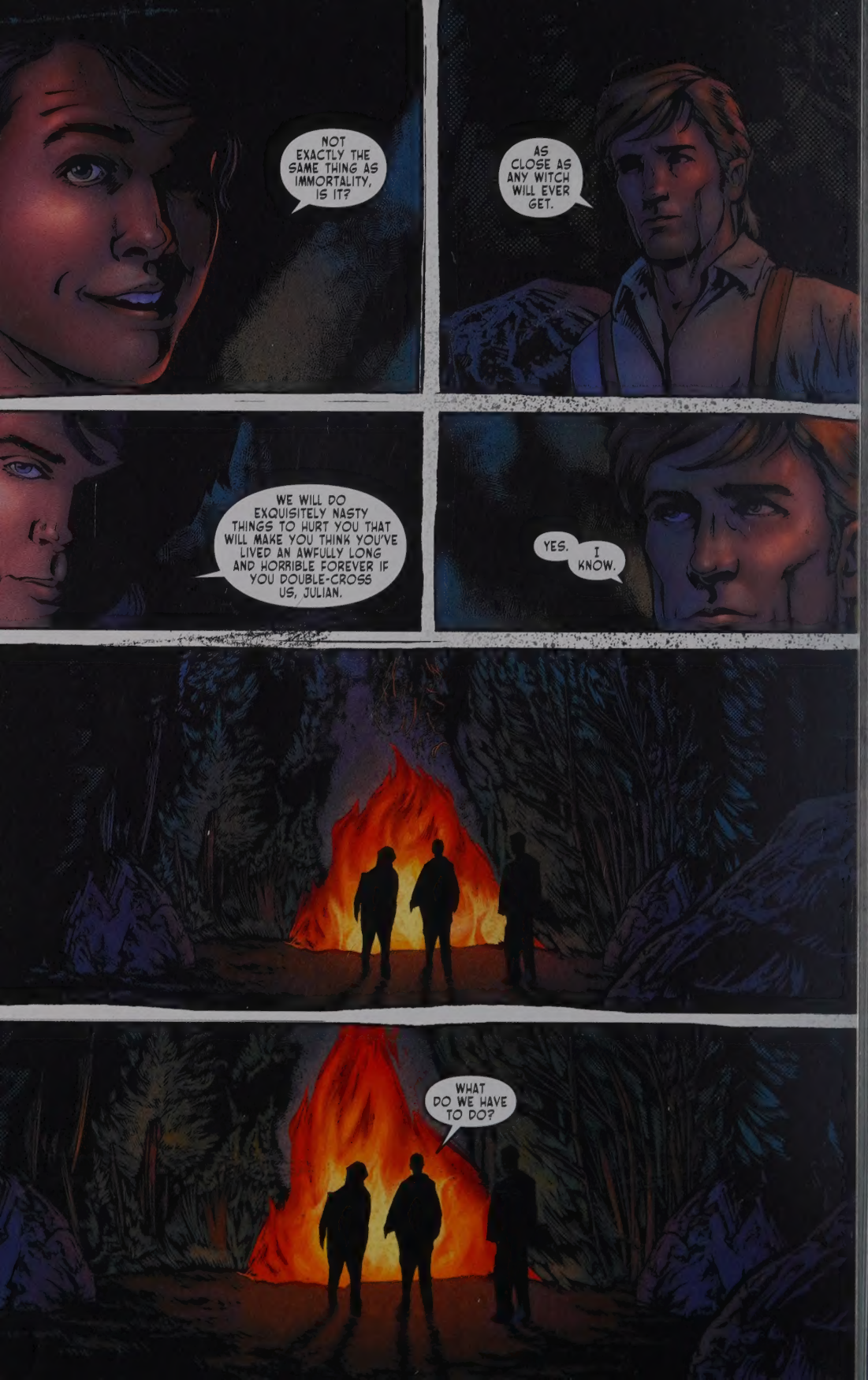

VERVAIN
COLLEEN DORAN
writer
TONY SHASTEEN
artist
JD METTLER
colorist

MYSTIC FALLS, VA. 1865.
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO MY BIRTHDAY PARTY, DAMON, STEFAN.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MY PRESENT!
I'M HAVING TROUBLE THINKING OF A REASON WHY WE SHOULD TRUST YOU, JULIAN. YOU'RE A YANKEE DESERTER, AS I RECALL.
BECAUSE I HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT, BOYS, AND YOU HAVE SOMETHING I WANT.


YOU WANT TO BE RID OF ALL OF THE VERVAIN IN MYSTIC FALLS--
--I CAN DO IT.
BUT I NEED BLOOD. *VAMPIRE BLOOD.*
WITCHES AND VAMPIRES DON'T EXACTLY GET ALONG, JULIAN. AND YET, YOU WANT TO HELP US.
HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CAST A SPELL ON US? AND WHY WOULD A WITCH WANT TO GET RID OF ALL THE VERVAIN IN TOWN? YOU *NEED* VERVAIN FOR YOUR MAGIC.
I *NEED* VERVAIN TO PROTECT ME FROM VAMPIRES, TOO. BUT YOU'LL HELP ME. I KNOW YOU WILL.
I WANT WHAT YOUR VAMPIRE BLOOD CAN GIVE ME, WHAT NO WITCH HAS.
IMMORTALITY.

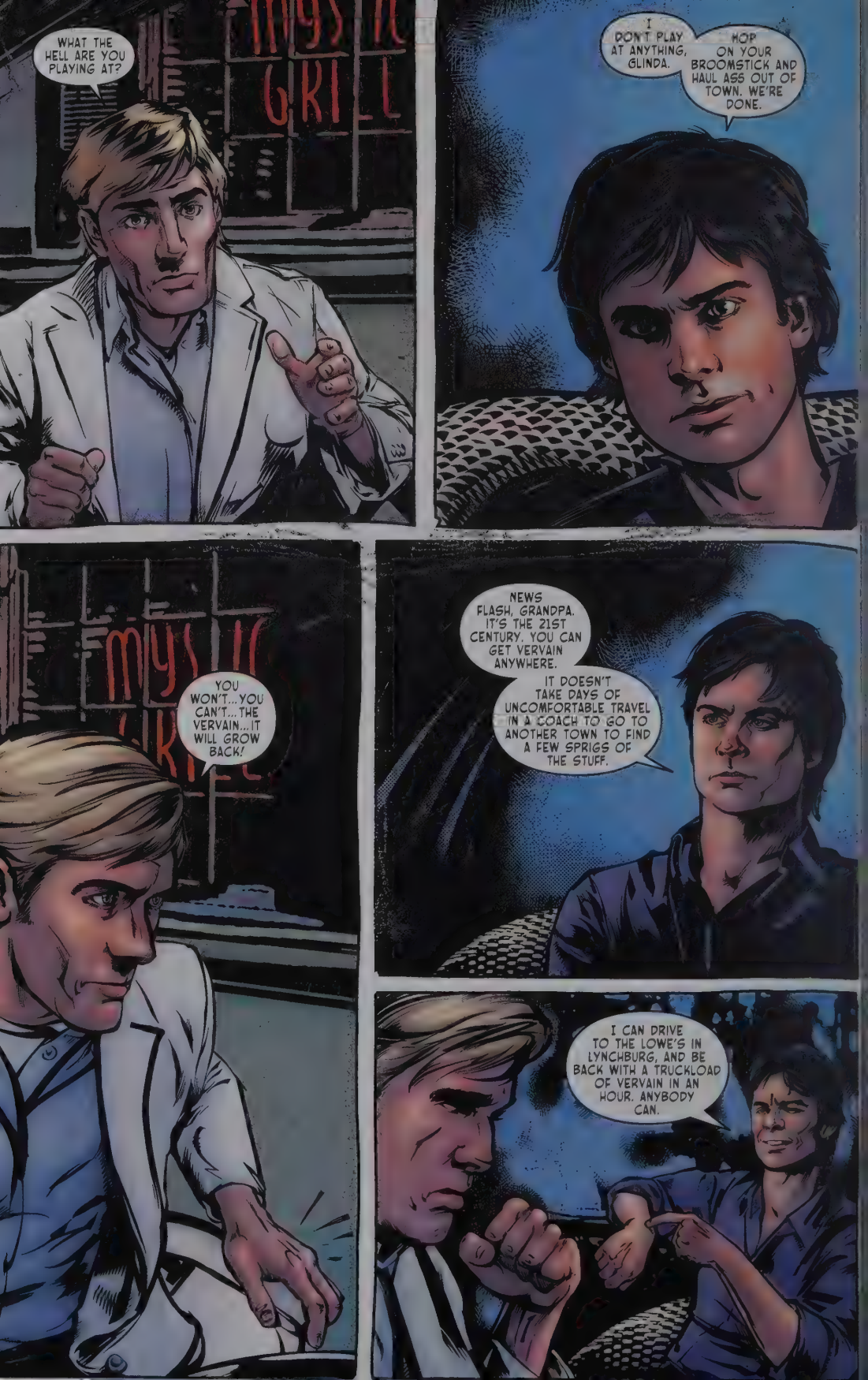
OF COURSE, I COULD BECOME IMMORTAL BY BECOMING A VAMPIRE, BUT I WOULD LOSE MY MAGIC. NO VAMPIRE CAN BE A WITCH.
I WANT IT ALL... THE IMMORTALITY *AND* THE POWER, WITHOUT THE REVOLTING EATING HABITS.
YOU UNDERSTAND.
THIS LIFE-EXTENSION SPELL REQUIRES IMMORTAL, VAMPIRE BLOOD. I GET PERFECT YOUTH FOR 24 YEARS--ONE YEAR FOR EACH YEAR I HAVE BEEN ON THIS EARTH.
DURING THAT PERIOD, NO VERVAIN WILL GROW IN THE NATIVE SOIL OF MYSTIC FALLS, OR ITS IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS.
I REMAIN YOUNG AND POWERFUL, YOU GET A MYSTIC FALLS FREE OF THE TAINT OF VERVAIN.
IN 24 YEARS, THE SPELL IS DONE. WE MUST RETURN HERE TO RENEW IT. THEN, I GET ANOTHER TERM OF LIFE, AND YOU GET VAMPIRE PARADISE AGAIN.
DO WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT, GENTLEMEN?

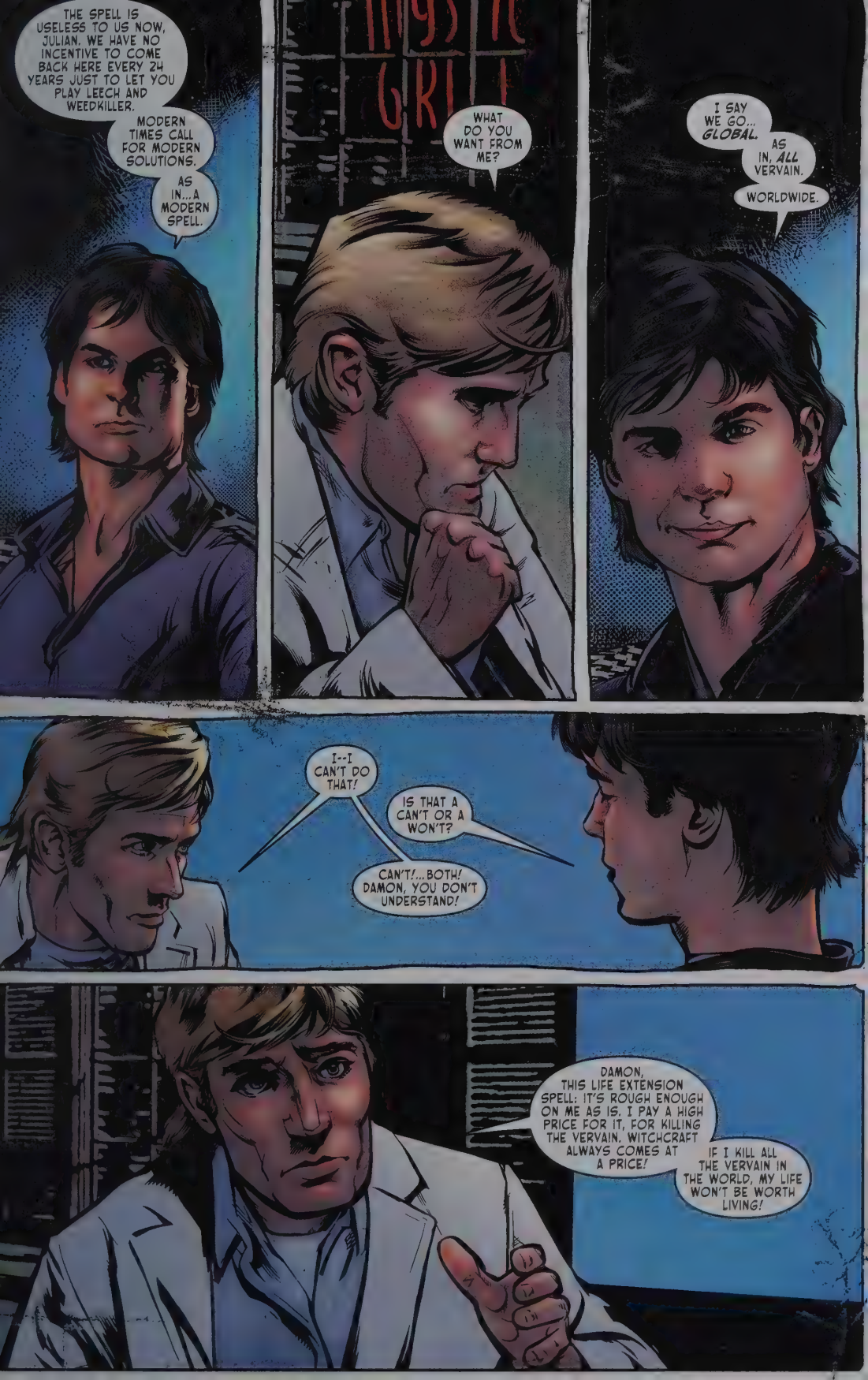

NOT EXACTLY THE SAME THING AS IMMORTALITY, IS IT?
AS CLOSE AS ANY WITCH WILL EVER GET.
WE WILL DO EXQUISITELY NASTY THINGS TO HURT YOU THAT WILL MAKE YOU THINK YOU'VE LIVED AN AWFULLY LONG AND HORRIBLE FOREVER IF YOU DOUBLE-CROSS US, JULIAN.
YES. I KNOW.
WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO?

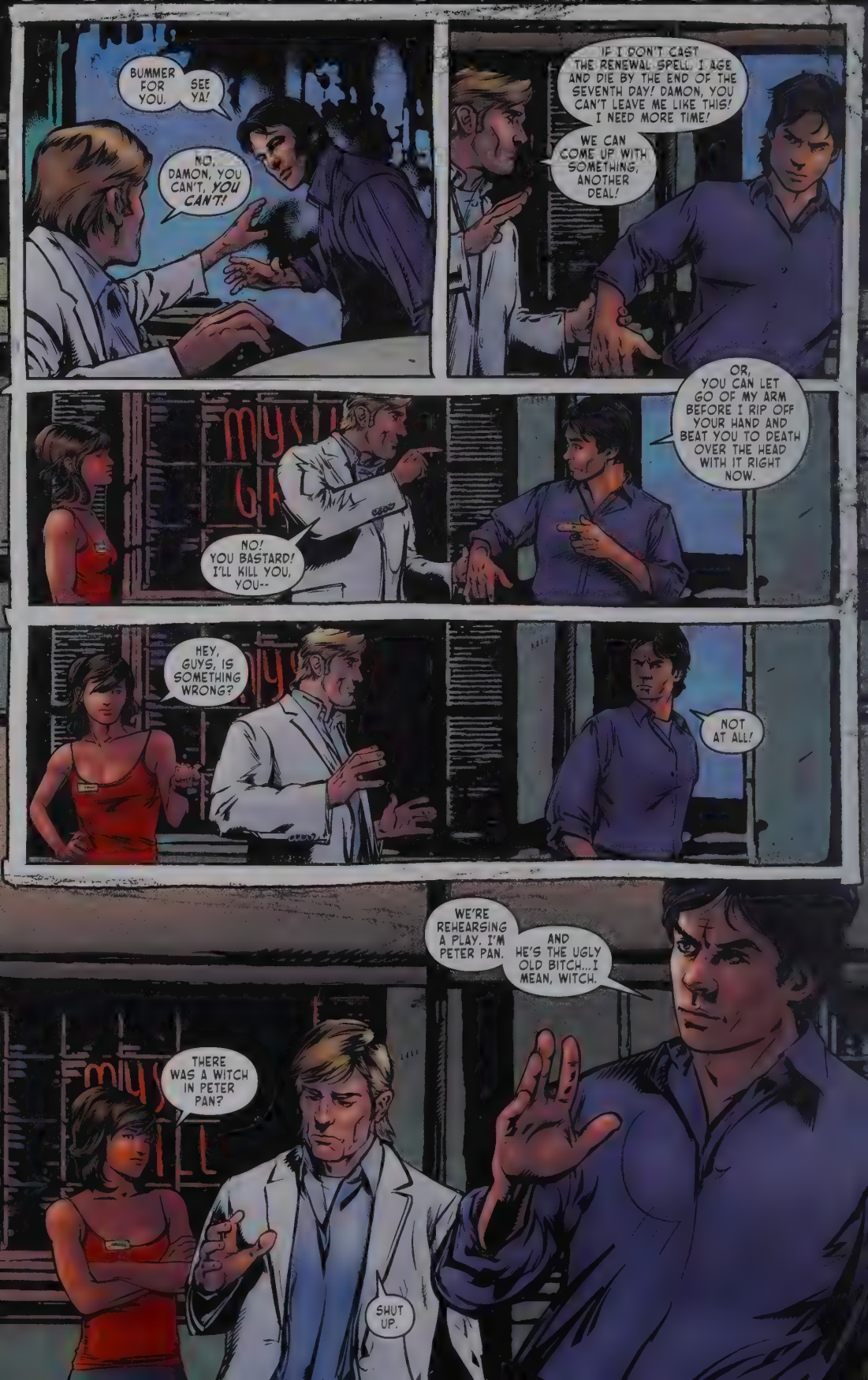
I NEED A CUP OF BLOOD FROM EACH OF YOU, AND I NEED YOU TO STAY AND CHANT AN OATH WHILE I CAST THE SPELL.
AND THEN?
WE STAY OUT OF EACH OTHER'S WAY FOR THE NEXT 24 YEARS, AND YOU FORGET MY NAME UNTIL IT'S TIME FOR MY NEXT BIRTHDAY PARTY.
WITCHKIND WON'T LOVE ME FOR WHAT I'M DOING HERE. AND YOU WON'T TELL THEM, WILL YOU?
THERE, THERE, PRETTY BIRD! THAT DIDN'T HURT NOW, DID IT?

MYSTIC GRILL
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JULIAN. YOU HAVEN'T AGED A DAY.
NEITHER HAVE YOU. IT MUST BE YOUR DIET.
I GET A LOT OF IRON.
HAS IT BEEN 24 YEARS ALREADY? WOW, IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY, I SWORE I'D STOP HATING YOUR GUTS BEFORE THE NEXT TIME I SAW YOU.
YOU NEVER GROW UP. YOU MAKE AN ADORABLE PETER PAN.
CAN A GUY GET A WAITRESS AROUND HERE?

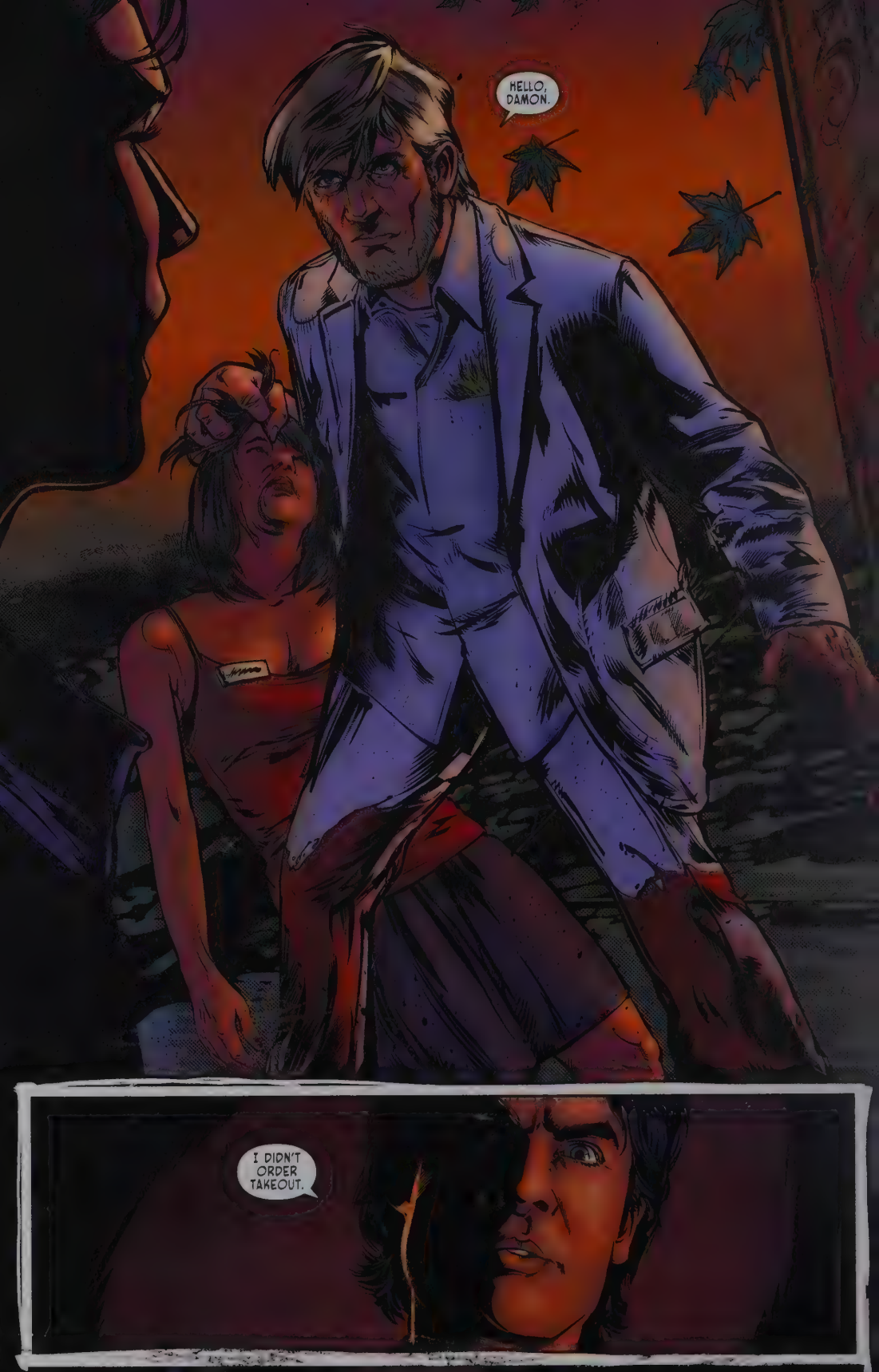
MYST
YOU'RE JUST PISSED BECAUSE I KEEP WINNING THE MYSTIC FALLS SUPERNATURAL BEING BEAUTY CONTEST.
I LOVE YOU, TOO.
CARAMEL MACCHIATO, PLEASE?
AND WHERE IS YOUR BETTER HALF? DON'T LOOK CONFUSED, I MEAN STEFAN. CAN'T HAVE THE CEREMONY WITHOUT STEFAN.
WE HAVE OUR MAN POWER DRUMMING CIRCLE MEETING TONIGHT. GOOD FOR THE TESTOSTERONE.
REALLY?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE.
HE DOESN'T COME HERE OFTEN, AND HE'S JUST LEAVING.
OH, I DON'T KNOW. NICE VIEW.
STEFAN'S NOT COMING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN STEFAN'S NOT COMING?
DID YOU DEVELOP A HEARING PROBLEM IN YOUR OLD AGE?
I SAID HE'S NOT COMING. THE DEAL'S OFF.

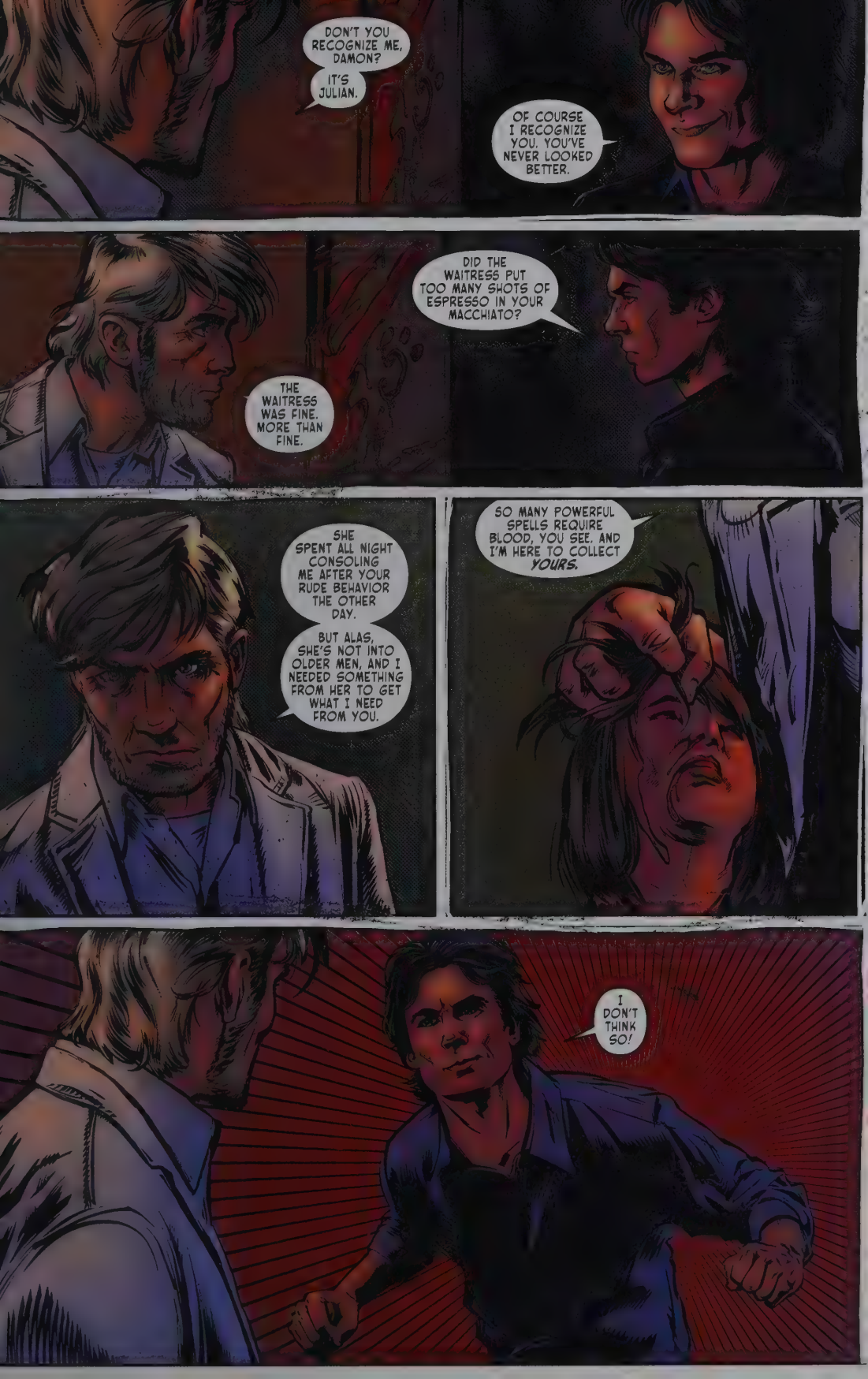

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU PLAYING AT?
I DON'T PLAY AT ANYTHING, GLINDA.
HOP ON YOUR BROOMSTICK AND HAUL ASS OUT OF TOWN. WE'RE DONE.
YOU WON'T... YOU CAN'T... THE VERVAIN... IT WILL GROW BACK!
NEWS FLASH, GRANDPA. IT'S THE 21ST CENTURY. YOU CAN GET VERVAIN ANYWHERE.
IT DOESN'T TAKE DAYS OF UNCOMFORTABLE TRAVEL IN A COACH TO GO TO ANOTHER TOWN TO FIND A FEW SPRIGS OF THE STUFF.
I CAN DRIVE TO THE LOWE'S IN LYNCHBURG, AND BE BACK WITH A TRUCKLOAD OF VERVAIN IN AN HOUR. ANYBODY CAN.


THE SPELL IS USELESS TO US NOW, JULIAN. WE HAVE NO INCENTIVE TO COME BACK HERE EVERY 24 YEARS JUST TO LET YOU PLAY LEECH AND WEEDKILLER.
MODERN TIMES CALL FOR MODERN SOLUTIONS.
AS IN...A MODERN SPELL.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I SAY WE GO... GLOBAL.
AS IN, ALL VERVAIN.
WORLDWIDE.
I--I CAN'T DO THAT!
IS THAT A CAN'T OR A WON'T?
CAN'T!...BOTH! DAMON, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
DAMON, THIS LIFE EXTENSION SPELL: IT'S ROUGH ENOUGH ON ME AS IS. I PAY A HIGH PRICE FOR IT, FOR KILLING THE VERVAIN. WITCHCRAFT ALWAYS COMES AT A PRICE!
IF I KILL ALL THE VERVAIN IN THE WORLD, MY LIFE WON'T BE WORTH LIVING!


BUMMER FOR YOU.
SEE YA!
NO, DAMON, YOU CAN'T, YOU CAN'T!
IF I DON'T CAST THE RENEWAL SPELL, I AGE AND DIE BY THE END OF THE SEVENTH DAY! DAMON, YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS! I NEED MORE TIME!
WE CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING, ANOTHER DEAL!
OR, YOU CAN LET GO OF MY ARM BEFORE I RIP OFF YOUR HAND AND BEAT YOU TO DEATH OVER THE HEAD WITH IT RIGHT NOW.
NO! YOU BASTARD! I'LL KILL YOU, YOU--
HEY, GUYS, IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NOT AT ALL!
WE'RE REHEARSING A PLAY. I'M PETER PAN.
AND HE'S THE UGLY OLD BITCH...I MEAN, WITCH.
THERE WAS A WITCH IN PETER PAN?
SHUT UP.

THREE DAYS LATER. THE SALVATORE BOARDING HOUSE
YOU KNOW, STEFAN, THEY HAVE REPAIRMEN FOR THAT.
REPAIRMEN MIGHT GET HERE NEXT WEEK. OR NEVER.
DAMON, I'M NOT TRYING TO GET THE PLACE ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, I JUST DON'T WANT THE ROOF TO COLLAPSE THE NEXT TIME IT RAINS.
BANG
BANG
BANG
YOU COULD GET THE DOOR. WHAT WITH YOU NOT HELPING ME HERE AND ALL.
I LOVE WATCHING OTHER PEOPLE DO MANUAL LABOR.


HELLO, DAMON.
I DIDN'T ORDER TAKEOUT.


DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, DAMON?
IT'S JULIAN.
OF COURSE I RECOGNIZE YOU. YOU'VE NEVER LOOKED BETTER.
DID THE WAITRESS PUT TOO MANY SHOTS OF ESPRESSO IN YOUR MACCHIATO?
THE WAITRESS WAS FINE. MORE THAN FINE.
SHE SPENT ALL NIGHT CONSOLING ME AFTER YOUR RUDE BEHAVIOR THE OTHER DAY.
BUT ALAS, SHE'S NOT INTO OLDER MEN, AND I NEEDED SOMETHING FROM HER TO GET WHAT I NEED FROM YOU.
SO MANY POWERFUL SPELLS REQUIRE BLOOD, YOU SEE. AND I'M HERE TO COLLECT YOURS.
I DON'T THINK SO!

AGHHH!
I LOVE THIS SPELL!
I USED IT TO PLACE WARDS ON YOUR HOUSE.
YOU CAN'T LEAVE THIS HOUSE UNTIL I SAY SO, AND YOU ARE NOT LEAVING THIS HOUSE UNTIL YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN.
YEARGH!
AH!
WE HAD A DEAL, SALVATORE! A DEAL!
AGH!
YOU GIVE ME WHAT I WANT OR THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT OF YOU BUT A WET SPOT!

YOU HAVE NO POWER AGAINST ME!
I DRANK SO MUCH VERVAIN, I CAN PISS IT OUT LIKE A GEYSER.
YAAAOOOW!
HERE, HAVE A TASTE!
I'VE HAD 150 YEARS TO PERFECT THE ART OF GATHERING POWER--SPELLS FOR GETTING WHAT I WANT.
AND I AM GOING TO DEMONSTRATE ALL OF THEM ON YOU.
NOW!
=GASP=
GIVE IT UP, STEFAN!
AGH!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?!

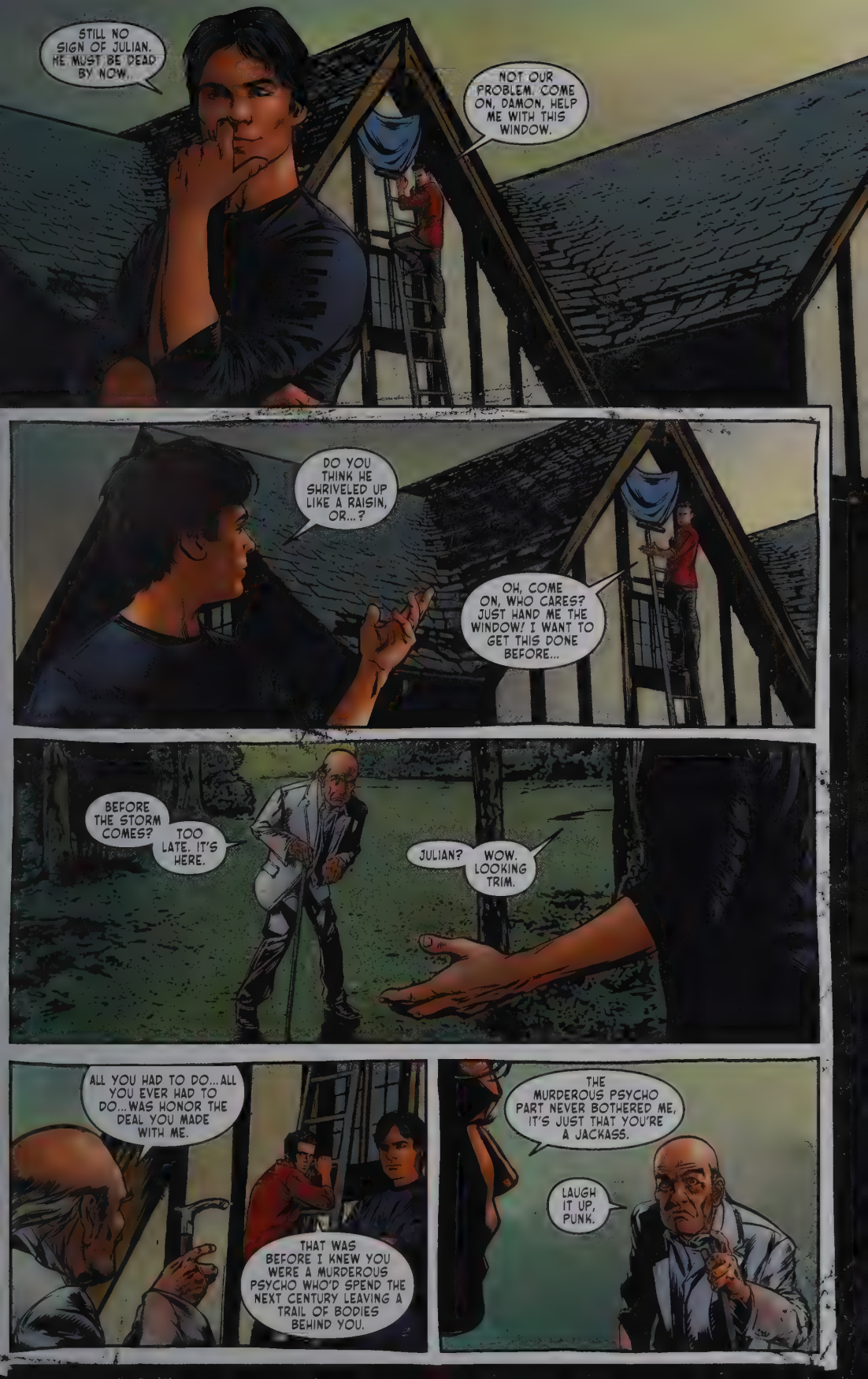
WELL, FOR ONE THING, *GASPS* YOU'RE A COMPLETE ASS!
RINGRINGTINKLERING
YEAAGH!
WHAT THE--?!
RINGRINGTINKLERING
NO! NO!
AUHH!
I THOUGHT IT WAS AN OLD WIVES' TALE THAT BRASS BELLS REPEL WITCHES!
IT *IS* AN OLD WIVES' TALE. THAT *SHOULDN'T* WORK!
IT WORKED ON HIM.
NOW I UNDERSTAND... SOMETHING HE SAID THE OTHER DAY.

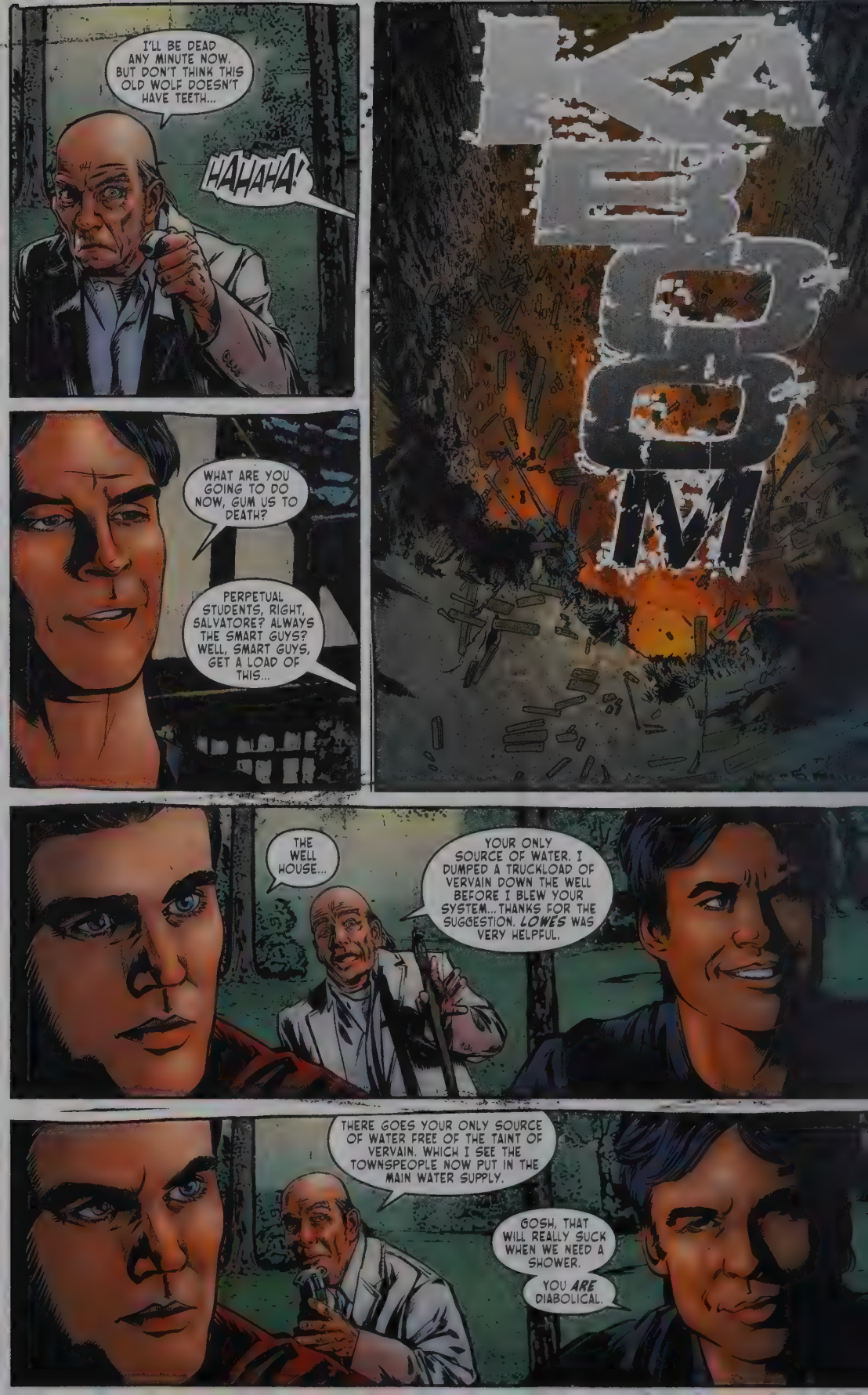
DAMON, THIS LIFE EXTENSION SPELL, IT'S ROUGH ENOUGH ON ME AS IS. I PAY A HIGH PRICE FOR IT--FOR KILLING THE VERVAIN. WITCHCRAFT ALWAYS COMES AT A PRICE!
I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.
WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT *VULNERABILITY?*
MAYBE THAT'S WHERE THESE OLD WIVES' TALES COME FROM. A POWERFUL WITCH IS BALANCED BY NATURE--SUSCEPTIBLE TO SIMPLE RITUALS.
WE DON'T NEED TO BE ABLE TO PERFORM MAGIC OURSELVES, WE JUST NEED IRON, SALT, PURE WATER...BELLS, AND BRASS KEYS! LOOK!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

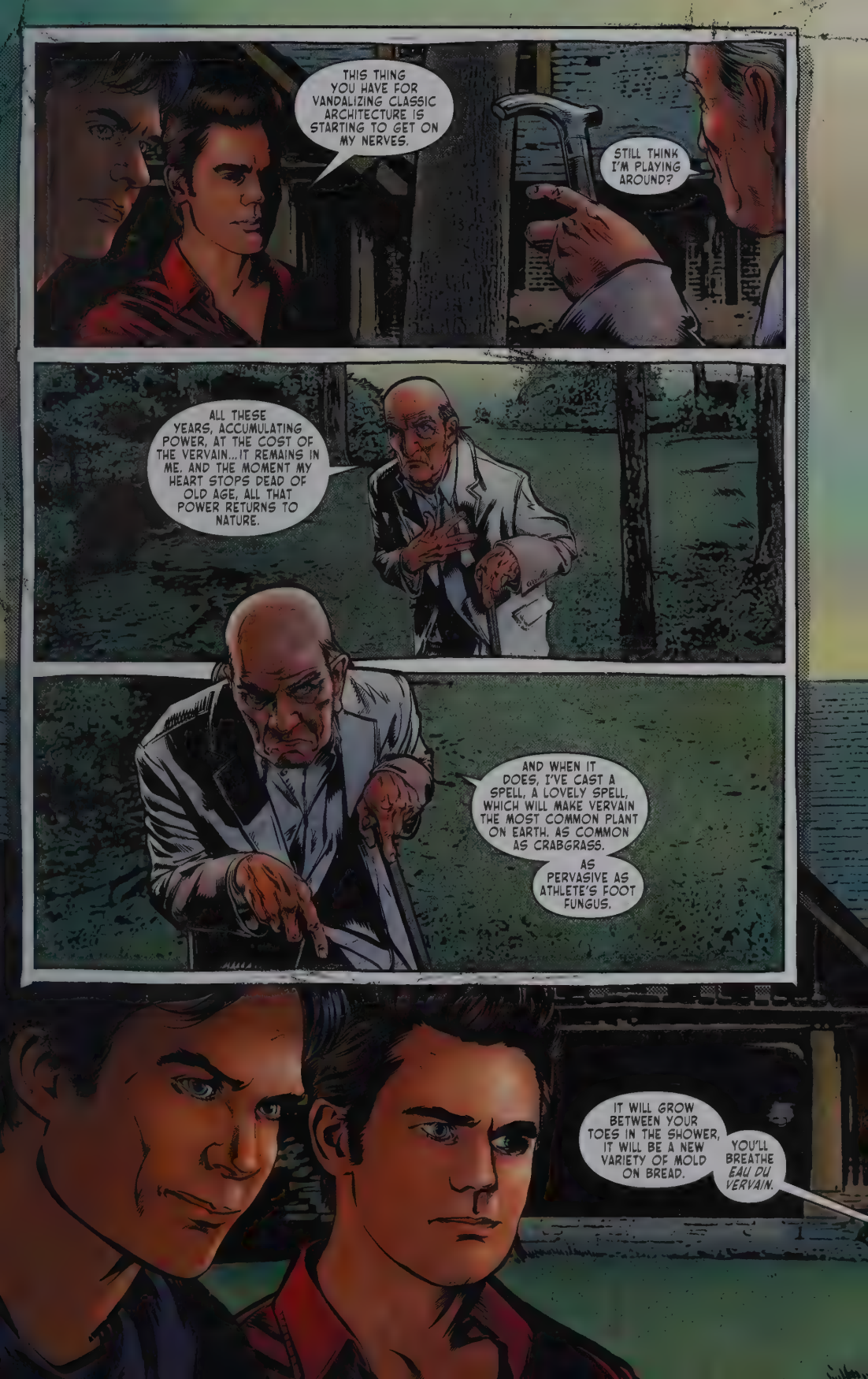
OH, BOYS! I'M COMING UP TO PLAY!
WHAT WAS THAT? SORRY, I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
I BET HE LISTENS TO MILEY CYRUS.
TURN THEM THREE TIMES TO REVERSE THE SPELL...
WHEN WE GET OUT OF HERE, I'M GOING TO TELL EVERYONE YOU HAVE BARRY MANILOW ON YOUR iPOD!
TRULY, HE IS EVIL.
WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE, BOYS? WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

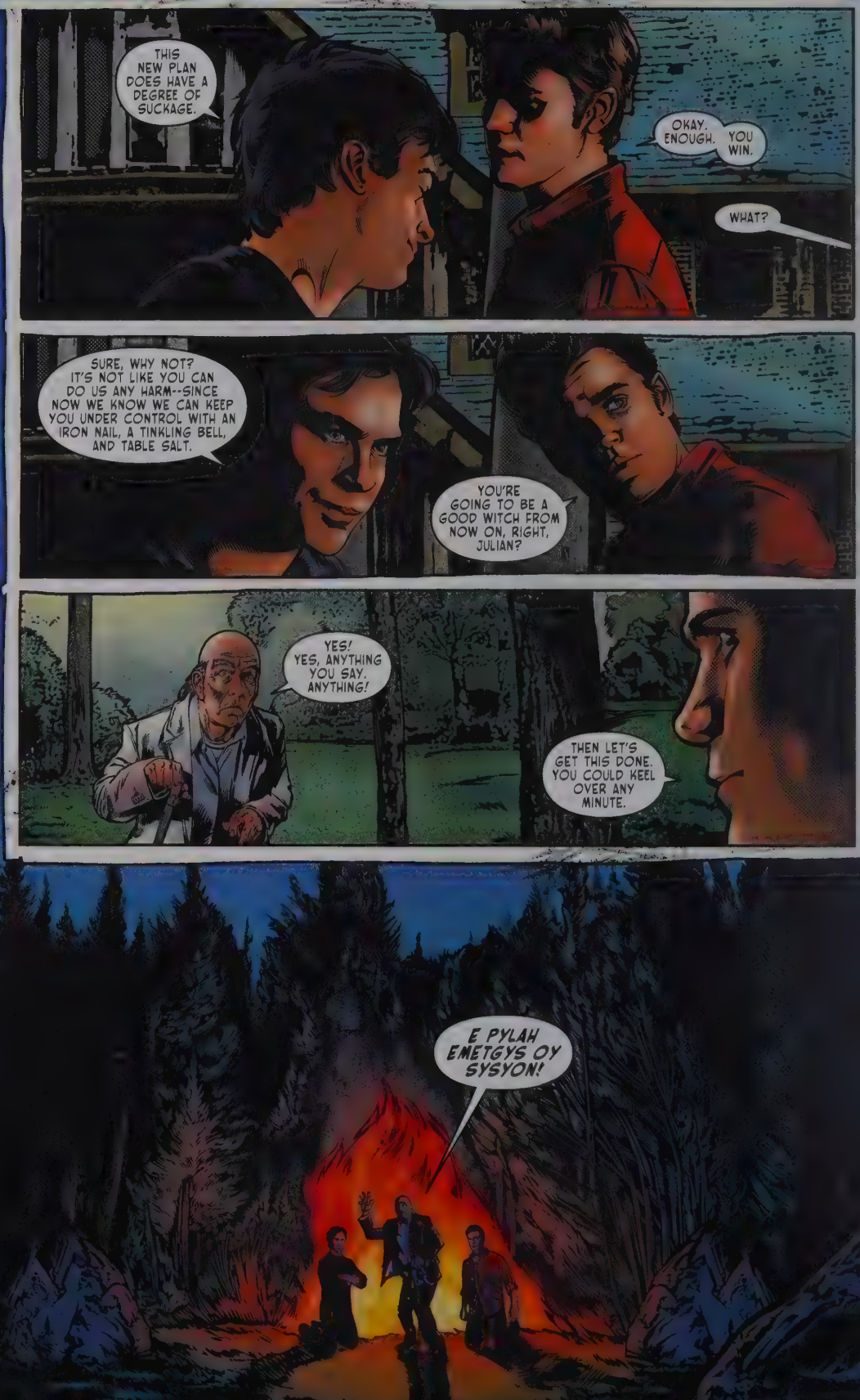
UNFH!
I WISH THAT BRASS KEY TRICK WORKED ON ALL WITCHES!
HOW THE HELL DID YOU--?!
HELLO, JULIAN.
I'VE GOT YOUR ACHILLES HEEL!
NO!
NOOoo!!

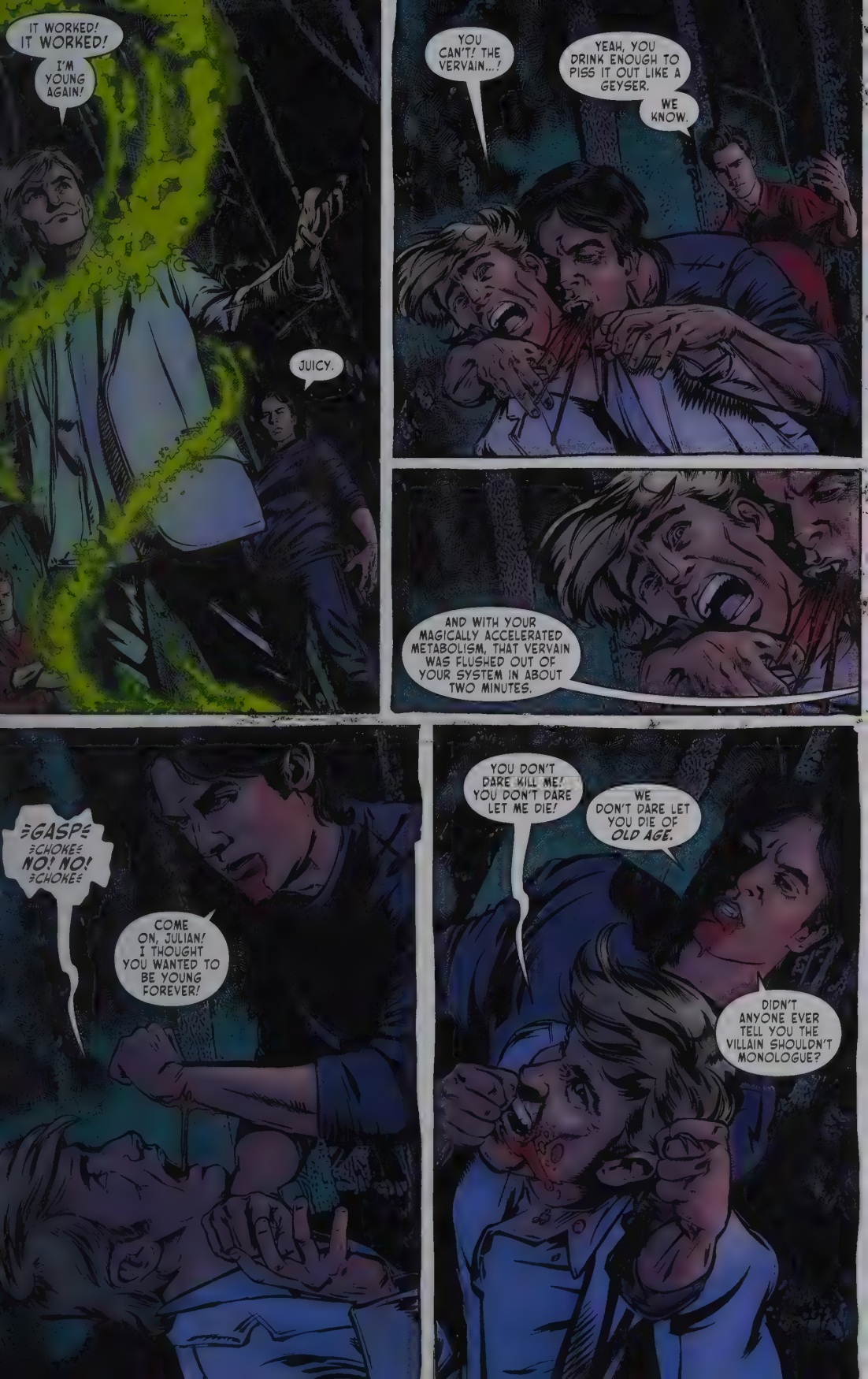
AGGHH!
OWWWAAAGHH!
STOP! STOP!
WONDER WHAT THOSE IRON NAILS WOULD DO IF WE HAMMERED THEM INTO HIS HEAD?
THREE GUESSES.
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU NOW, JULIAN.
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD 70 YEARS LEFT BEFORE YOU FINALLY DIE, WHICH SHOULD BE IN ABOUT THREE DAYS.
TILL THEN, I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN OUR FAMILY DUNGEON WHERE WE CAN KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.
LIKE *HELL* I WILL!


STILL NO SIGN OF JULIAN. HE MUST BE DEAD BY NOW.
NOT OUR PROBLEM. COME ON, DAMON, HELP ME WITH THIS WINDOW.
DO YOU THINK HE SHRIVELED UP LIKE A RAISIN, OR...?
OH, COME ON, WHO CARES? JUST HAND ME THE WINDOW! I WANT TO GET THIS DONE BEFORE...
BEFORE THE STORM COMES?
TOO LATE. IT'S HERE.
JULIAN?
WOW. LOOKING TRIM.
ALL YOU HAD TO DO... ALL YOU EVER HAD TO DO... WAS HONOR THE DEAL YOU MADE WITH ME.
THAT WAS BEFORE I KNEW YOU WERE A MURDEROUS PSYCHO WHO'D SPEND THE NEXT CENTURY LEAVING A TRAIL OF BODIES BEHIND YOU.
THE MURDEROUS PSYCHO PART NEVER BOTHERED ME, IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE A JACKASS.
LAUGH IT UP, PUNK.


I'LL BE DEAD ANY MINUTE NOW. BUT DON'T THINK THIS OLD WOLF DOESN'T HAVE TEETH...
HAHAHA!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW, GUM US TO DEATH?
PERPETUAL STUDENTS, RIGHT, SALVATORE? ALWAYS THE SMART GUYS? WELL, SMART GUYS, GET A LOAD OF THIS...
KABOOM!
THE WELL HOUSE...
YOUR ONLY SOURCE OF WATER. I DUMPED A TRUCKLOAD OF VERVAIN DOWN THE WELL BEFORE I BLEW YOUR SYSTEM... THANKS FOR THE SUGGESTION, LOWES WAS VERY HELPFUL.
THERE GOES YOUR ONLY SOURCE OF WATER FREE OF THE TAINT OF VERVAIN. WHICH I SEE THE TOWNSPEOPLE NOW PUT IN THE MAIN WATER SUPPLY.
GOSH, THAT WILL REALLY SUCK WHEN WE NEED A SHOWER.
YOU ARE DIABOLICAL.

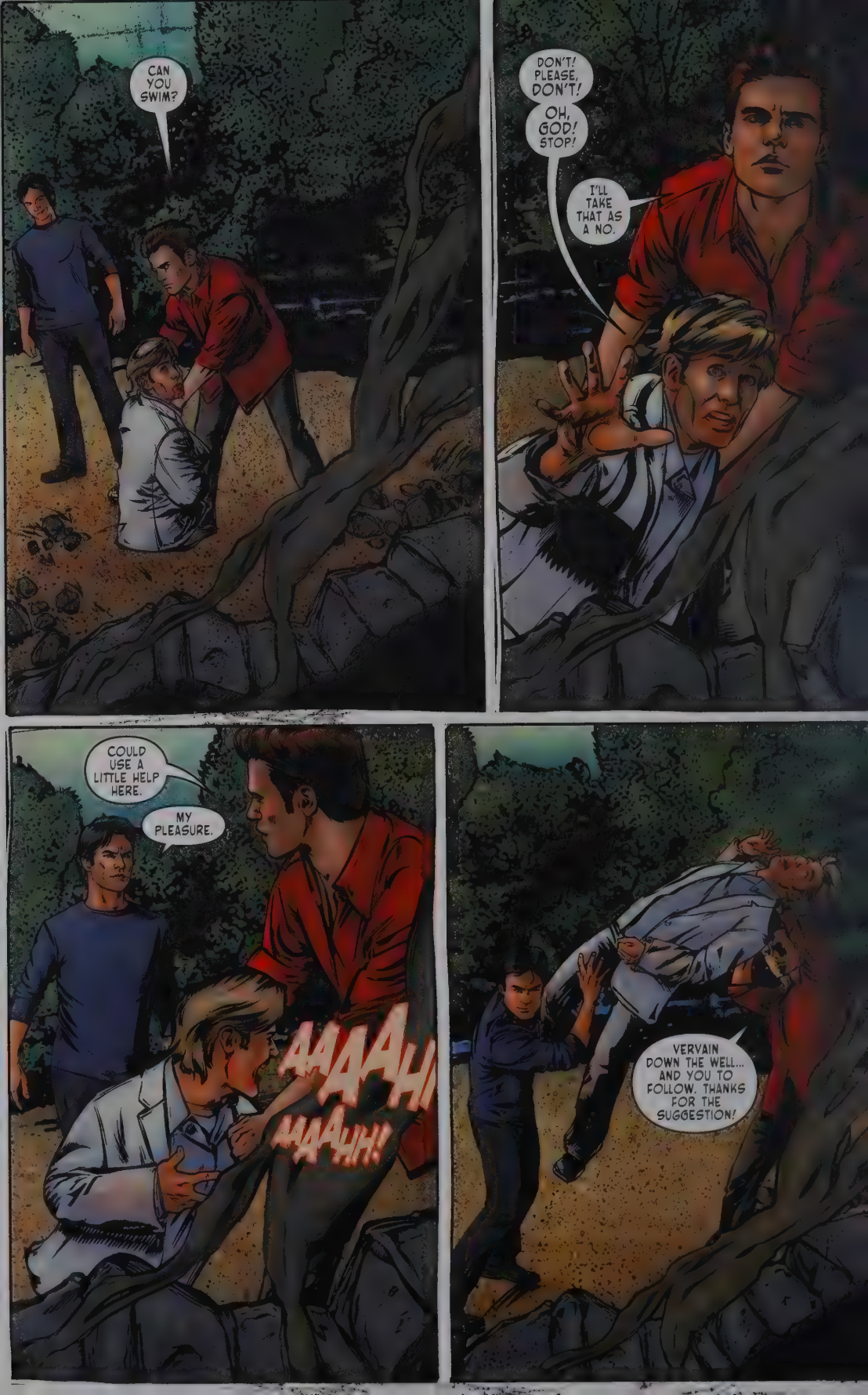

THIS THING YOU HAVE FOR VANDALIZING CLASSIC ARCHITECTURE IS STARTING TO GET ON MY NERVES.
STILL THINK I'M PLAYING AROUND?
ALL THESE YEARS, ACCUMULATING POWER, AT THE COST OF THE VERVAIN... IT REMAINS IN ME. AND THE MOMENT MY HEART STOPS DEAD OF OLD AGE, ALL THAT POWER RETURNS TO NATURE.
AND WHEN IT DOES, I'VE CAST A SPELL, A LOVELY SPELL, WHICH WILL MAKE VERVAIN THE MOST COMMON PLANT ON EARTH. AS COMMON AS CRABGRASS.
AS PERVASIVE AS ATHLETE'S FOOT FUNGUS.
IT WILL GROW BETWEEN YOUR TOES IN THE SHOWER, IT WILL BE A NEW VARIETY OF MOLD ON BREAD.
YOU'LL BREATHE *EAU DU VERVAIN.*


THIS NEW PLAN DOES HAVE A DEGREE OF SUCKAGE.
OKAY. ENOUGH. YOU WIN.
WHAT?
SURE, WHY NOT? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN DO US ANY HARM--SINCE NOW WE KNOW WE CAN KEEP YOU UNDER CONTROL WITH AN IRON NAIL, A TINKLING BELL, AND TABLE SALT.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A GOOD WITCH FROM NOW ON, RIGHT, JULIAN?
YES! YES, ANYTHING YOU SAY. ANYTHING!
THEN LET'S GET THIS DONE. YOU COULD KEEL OVER ANY MINUTE.
E PYLAH EMETGYS OY SYSYON!


IT WORKED! IT WORKED!
I'M YOUNG AGAIN!
JUICY.
YOU CAN'T! THE VERVAIN...!
YEAH, YOU DRINK ENOUGH TO PISS IT OUT LIKE A GEYSER.
WE KNOW.
AND WITH YOUR MAGICALLY ACCELERATED METABOLISM, THAT VERVAIN WAS FLUSHED OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM IN ABOUT TWO MINUTES.
=GASP= =CHOKE= NO! NO! =CHOKE=
COME ON, JULIAN! I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO BE YOUNG FOREVER!
YOU DON'T DARE KILL ME! YOU DON'T DARE LET ME DIE!
WE DON'T DARE LET YOU DIE OF OLD AGE.
DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THE VILLAIN SHOULDN'T MONOLOGUE?

NIMROD.
CRACK
WHU... WHAT?
EAT UP!
MRRF-FNO!
NOM NOM NOM!
VAMPIRES DON'T HAVE MAGICAL POWERS, JULIAN. YOUR MAGIC ASPIRATED INTO THE ETHER WHERE IT CAN'T DO US ANY HARM, AND YOU'RE OUT OF THE BLACK MAGIC GAME FOR GOOD.

YOU...YOU TOOK AWAY MY MAGIC...BECAUSE I'VE BEEN A BAD BOY?
SO, YOU TURN ME INTO A RAVENOUS, MURDERING VAMPIRE?
NICE ONE! I SURE WON'T HURT ANYBODY NOW!
NO. I DON'T THINK YOU WILL.
MY MAGIC... GONE.
I FEEL... DEAD INSIDE!
OF COURSE YOU FEEL DEAD INSIDE. YOU'RE A VAMPIRE, YOU MORON.
COME ON, LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
I STILL HAVE TO FIX THAT WINDOW.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!


CAN YOU SWIM?
DON'T! PLEASE, DON'T!
OH, GOD! STOP!
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A NO.
COULD USE A LITTLE HELP HERE.
MY PLEASURE.
AAAAH!
AAAUH!
VERVAIN DOWN THE WELL... AND YOU TO FOLLOW. THANKS FOR THE SUGGESTION!

I'M SURE YOU THOUGHT POISONING OUR WELL WITH VERVAIN WOULD BE A GREAT INCONVENIENCE, AND WELL, IT WAS PISSY OF YOU.
BUT THE AQUIFER HERE FLOWS AT A RATE OF ABOUT 50 FEET PER DAY, SO IT WILL FLUSH ITSELF RIGHT ALONG.
AND YOU WITH IT.
I GUESS YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT. IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS YOU LEARN AS A PERPETUAL STUDENT.
AAAAGH!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR NOT HAVING A MODERN EDUCATION.
NOOOOOOOOO

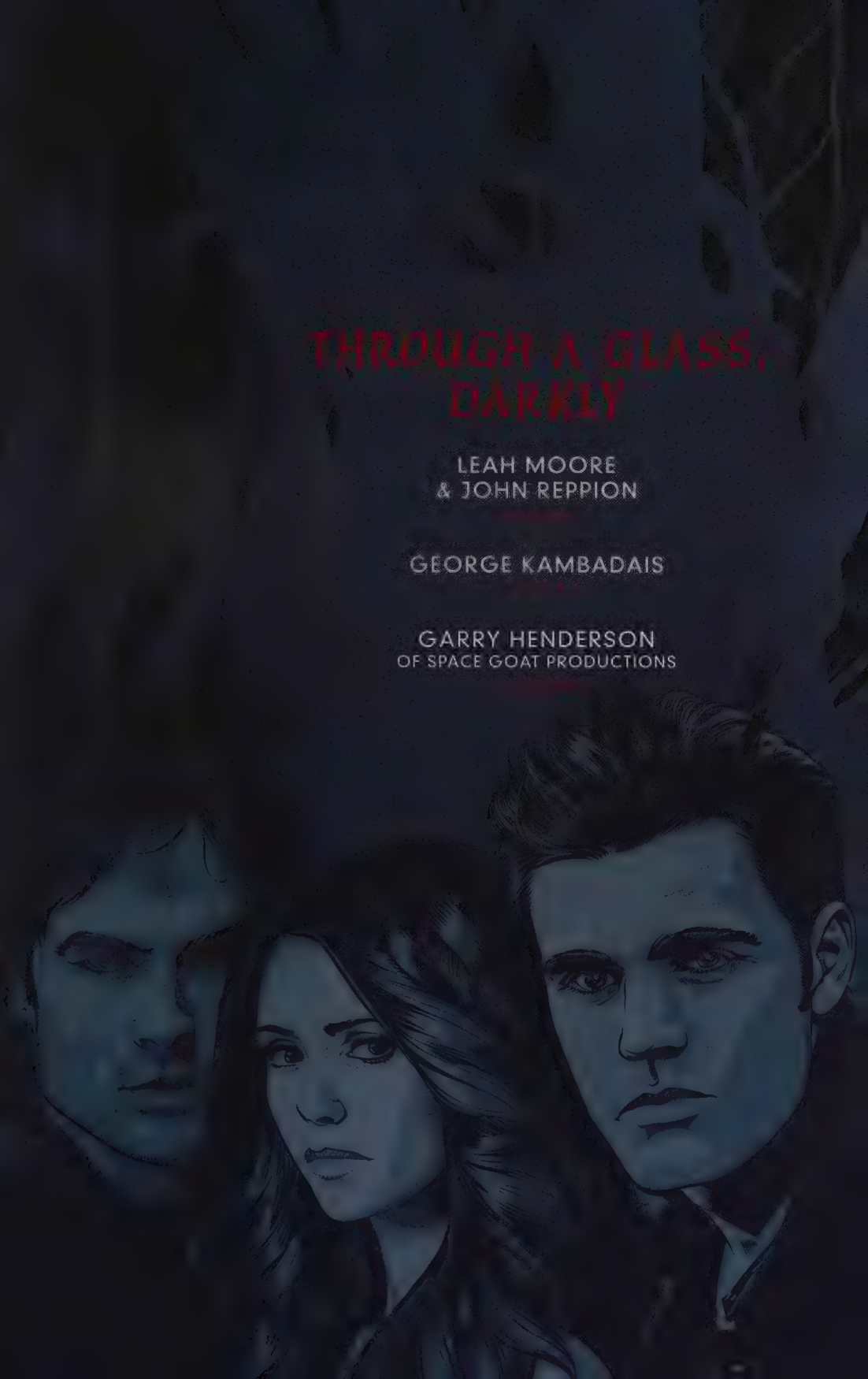
I DIDN'T HEAR HIM HIT THE WATER.
HE PROBABLY GRABBED THE ROCK FACE. BEAN HIM. MAKE SURE HE GOES DOWN.
AAGH
NICE SHOOTIN', TEX.
OK, I THINK WE'RE DONE HERE.
YEAH, I NEED TO SEAL THAT WELL, THOUGH, AND CALL SOMEONE IN TO DRILL A NEW ONE. WE NEEDED A BETTER PUMP SYSTEM ANYWAY.
GET A TANKER IN HERE SO WE CAN SUPPLY THE HOUSE. SOME BOTTLED WATER...
YEAH. OKAY.
YEAH. WE'RE GOOD.
THE END

THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY

LEAH MOORE
& JOHN REPPION

GEORGE KAMBADAIS

GARRY HENDERSON
OF SPACE GOAT PRODUCTIONS



SALVATORE BOARDING HOUSE.
...FOUR, FIVE, SIX...
...DO WE REALLY HAVE TO DO THIS, ELENA?
JUST KEEP COUNTING!
SIGHS ...SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE...
...TEN.
COMING, READY OR NOT.
OH, WHEREVER CAN SHE BE?
I MEAN IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN HEAR YOU OR ANYTHING.
OF COURSE, IT HAD TO BE THE CELLAR, DIDN'T IT?

COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE...
BOO.
WHUMP
YOU JERK!
OUCH. NO NEED TO DEMOLISH MY ANCESTRAL HOME USING MY BACK AS A JACKHAMMER.
DAMON, LOOK!

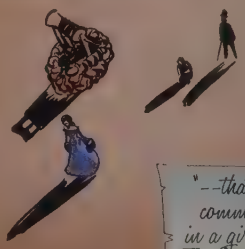
DAMON, LOOK AT THIS.
IT'S A DIARY...
"MY NAME IS LIGEIA DE LA POER.
"I MUST MAKE THIS RECORD WITH CARE, BUT ALSO IN HASTE.
"FOR THESE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY THE LAST WORDS I SHALL EVER SET DOWN.

"I was born on a Full Flower Moon, in my parents' wagon, many miles east of Mystic Falls.
"They said I kept the light of that moon and shone it on them ever after.
"They worked hard wherever we stopped. I worked too, or sometimes, I went to school.
"I liked those times best.
"When we came to Mystic Falls, life was good.
"I made friends.
"I felt safe here. I felt loved.
"My mother said my light never shone as bright as it did here.

"I was only eighteen when the wheelwright's son proposed to me.

"I did not know him, except by sight, and so I declined as kindly as I could.

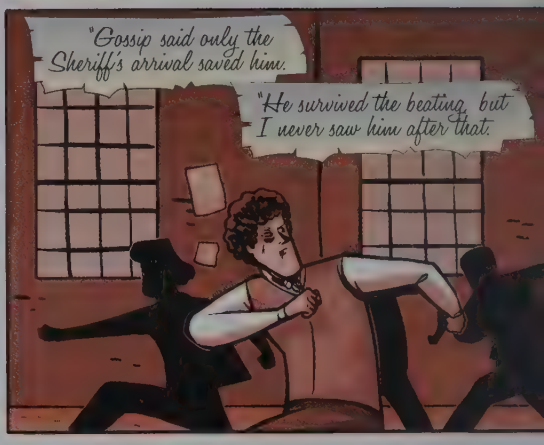
"In my innocence, I did not know how jealous people can be--



"--that men would commit violence in a girl's name? For love, or lust?

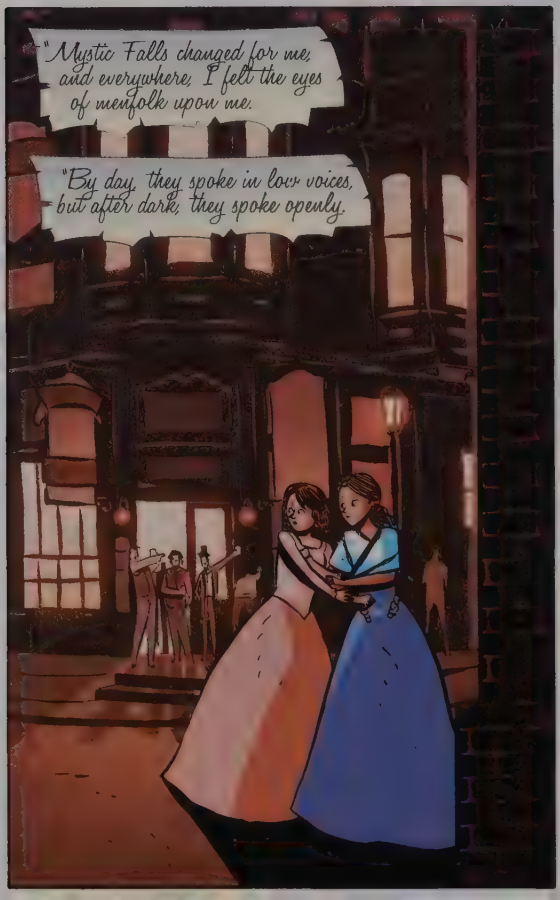
"Gossip said only the Sheriff's arrival saved him.

"He survived the beating, but I never saw him after that.



"Mystic Falls changed for me, and everywhere, I felt the eyes of menfolk upon me.

"By day, they spoke in low voices, but after dark, they spoke openly.



"I knew their boasts were lies, but who would their friends believe?

"I could not see what I had done to deserve it, and only hoped that it would pass.

"When the accusations came, I was unprepared. Had I slept with her husband? Of course not!
"They called me 'Liar.' Two men had been heard crowing of conquering me.
"Homewrecker!' They hissed, and words I am too ashamed to record here.
"As I ran from them I tried to think, what had I done? What had I said to warrant this?
"They could not prove even one of their wild suppositions.
"And I think that made them hate me all the more.

"One night, my mother had been visiting with a friend when she saw the townswomen in the woods.
"Their eyes were cold and their jaws were set. They were about some grim purpose my mother knew not what.
"When she told me, a chill ran down my spine.
"To go to such lengths? To put themselves out so?
"My fate was sealed. They wanted me gone, whatever foul deed it took.
"Of course, I know now what that deed was.
"They asked a witch to reveal my sins, and show them plainly on my face for all to see.
"The witch gave them a mirror. She told them to hold it before me.
"In its glass, my true self would be revealed.

"When they came for me, mother barred the door and wept and raged.
"I told her I had nothing to fear, for I had done nothing wrong, so I joined them in the town square.
"And when I gazed into that enchanted mirror, my heart leapt for I saw only myself.
"I was no monster-- now they would surely see that too.
"But then I saw their faces. Their true selves.
"So filled with anger, with lust, with jealousy, and with hatred.
"I lived, it seemed, among a madding crowd of monsters.

"None could admit what they saw in the looking glass.
"Better to brand me the monster than admit the truth.
"They dragged me here, to the Salvatore house. Said it was for the good of the town.
"I begged them for a candle, that I might spend my last moments in the light. This little book and pencil were in my pocket, as always.
"That was some time ago, and my candle is almost spent.
"The air grows stale and thin, and I feel weak and weary.
"I do not fear. I have committed no sin.
"I have always been true to myself."

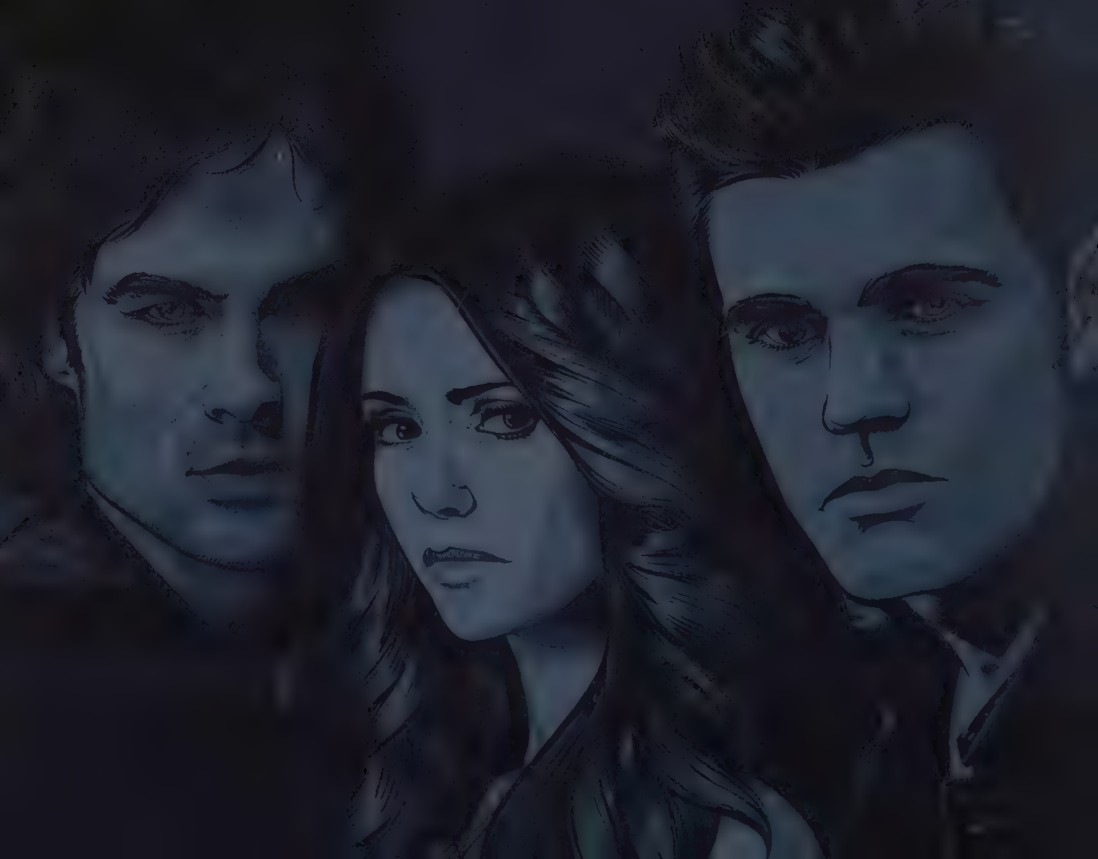
"HERE LIES A GOODY-TWO-SHOES." HOW SAD.
THAT'S AWFUL, DAMON!
IS THAT THE MIRROR? CAN I SEE?
WHOOPS. SORRY.
SMASH
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. THIS PLACE IS CREEPING ME OUT.
WHAT, YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH OF HIDE AND SEEK NOW? DON'T WORRY, ELENA...
...AT LEAST THE NIGHT IS STILL YOUNG.
The End

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

B. CLAY MOORE

TONY SHASTEEN

WENDY BROOME



It had been a long time.
Maybe too long. Maybe not long enough. But the holidays always made me think of home.

And in many ways, Mystic Falls was still my home.
IT'S NOT THAT I'M NOT GLAD TO SEE YOU, UNCLE STEFAN--
BUT...
BUT WHAT, ZACH? SPIT IT OUT.
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M JUST VISITING, ZACH. I PROMISE.

I GUESS I'VE BEEN FEELING A BIT RESTLESS LATELY. THOUGHT I'D SEE HOW MYSTIC FALLS WAS FARING, THAT'S ALL.
AND HAVE YOU HEARD FROM YOUR BROTHER LATELY?
WHO?
I GUESS THAT ANSWERS THAT QUESTION.
WELL, I'M GLAD TO KNOW YOU'RE IN TOWN--ALTHOUGH I WOULD HAVE NOTICED YOU *EVENTUALLY*. I KEEP MY EYES PEELED FOR SIGNS OF...YOU KNOW.
UNLESS YOU'RE KEEPING TRACK OF THE LOCAL SQUIRREL POPULATION, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN I WAS IN TOWN.
I EXPLAINED TO YOU ONCE THAT MY DIET'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE NORMAL VAMPIRE'S.
RIGHT, RIGHT.
THINGS HAVE BEEN QUIET AROUND HERE FOR A WHILE, THAT'S ALL. THE FOUNDERS COUNCIL MIGHT NOT EVEN KNOW A VAMPIRE IF IT BIT THEM IN THEIR NECKS.
WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT, ELENA? WE'VE GOT A YEAR AND A HALF LEFT IN MYSTIC FALLS, AND THEN WE CAN EXPLORE THE WORLD ON OUR OWN TERMS.

OUR OWN TERMS? I GUESS IF YOU CALL GOING TO COLLEGE ON MY PARENTS' DIME MY OWN TERMS, THAT'S ACCURATE.
I GUESS I'M JUST-- I DON'T KNOW--BORED. NOTHING EVER REALLY HAPPENS IN MYSTIC FALLS, BONNIE. MY FAMILY HAS LIVED IN THIS TOWN FOR GENERATIONS. IT'S LIKE NO ONE EVER THINKS ABOUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
POOR ELENA GILBERT--POPULAR CHEERLEADER, DATING A FOOTBALL STAR. DADDY'S A DOCTOR AND MOMMY--
UGH. OKAY, OKAY. I KNOW. I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT. CAN'T YOU JUST LET ME WALLOW IN SOME TEENAGE ANGST ONCE IN A WHILE, BONNIE?
SURE, BUT CAN'T IT WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE PARTY? HANGING OUT WITH THE SENIORS MIGHT MAKE YOU FEEL MORE MATURE, RIGHT?
UH-HUH. BECAUSE WATCHING DRUNKEN FOOTBALL PLAYERS DO KEGSTANDS IS SO MATURE.
SORRY. I'LL BE--
WHAT WAS THAT?

IT'S MATT.
HEY, LADIES. DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S DANGEROUS TO GO WALKING IN THE WOODS ALONE? I MEAN, SINCE WE'RE GOING TO THE SAME PLACE--
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HER, BUT I'LL TAKE A RIDE.
YOU TALKED ME INTO IT, STRANGER.
BESIDES--THERE *IS* SOMETHING CREEPY ABOUT THE WOODS TONIGHT.
YEAH? I'VE BEEN PLAYING IN THESE WOODS SINCE I WAS BORN. I GUESS THEY FEEL TOO MUCH LIKE HOME TO BE TOO CREEPY.

THAT'S WEIRD. ANGELA WAS SUPPOSED TO WAIT FOR ME OVER HERE, BUT I DON'T SEE HER ANYWHERE.
BUMMER, DANNY.
HOPE SHE DIDN'T LEAVE WITH SOMEONE.
YEAH, ME TOO. SHE WASN'T IN THE BEST SHAPE. AND HER DAD'LL FREAKING KILL ME IF I DON'T GET HER HOME BY MIDNIGHT.
KNOWING ANGELA, THE LIST OF WHO SHE MIGHT'VE LEFT WITH STARTS WITH THE ENTIRE FOOTBALL TEAM.
THAT'S TERRIBLE, MATT. SHE'S NOT THAT BAD.
ANGELA?
WELL, I THINK I'VE SEEN ENOUGH MACHO DRINKING COMPETITIONS FOR ONE NIGHT. ANY CHANCE YOU TWO ARE READY TO GO?
I'M READY. ASSUMING WE CAN DRAG THE FOOTBALL HERO OUT OF HERE. I DON'T FEEL LIKE WANDERING THE WOODS ALONE.
I SEE HOW IT IS. JUST USING ME FOR MY TRUCK.
YOU FIND HER, DANNY?
NAH. YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, MATT. I'M SURE SHE'LL TURN UP SOMEWHERE.

GOTCHA.
SORRY, BUGS. YOU GAVE IT A GOOD SHOT, BUT--
WHAT--?

DAMN IT.
...Mystic Falls was still my home.

AND WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE BODY? I MEAN--IF THE COUNCIL GETS WIND OF THIS--
I TOOK CARE OF THE BODY, ZACH. NO ONE WILL FIND HER. AND NO ONE IN TOWN KNOWS I'M HERE.
SO, WHAT NOW? WHAT DID YOU DO--LEAD A PARADE OF VAMPIRES INTO MYSTIC FALLS?
IT WON'T BE MUCH LONGER BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE TURNS UP WITH THEIR THROAT RIPPED OUT. YOU REALIZE THAT, RIGHT?
ZACH--BACK OFF. THIS ISN'T MY FAULT. I'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE AND I'LL DEAL WITH IT.
AND THEN WHAT?
AND THEN I'LL GO, ALL RIGHT? I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SEEING THE COUNCIL RILED UP, ZACH. THERE ARE PLENTY OF SECRETS IN THIS TOWN THAT NEED TO STAY BURIED. WE BOTH KNOW THAT.

AND, FRANKLY, YOU COULD STAND TO LOOSEN UP A LITTLE. HAVE A DRINK OR SOMETHING, WILL YOU?
YEAH, YEAH. YOU TRY LIVING IN THIS PLACE BY YOURSELF IN THE DEAD OF WINTER. IT MIGHT EVEN CREEP *YOU* OUT.
OH.
DAMN IT.
Katherine 1864

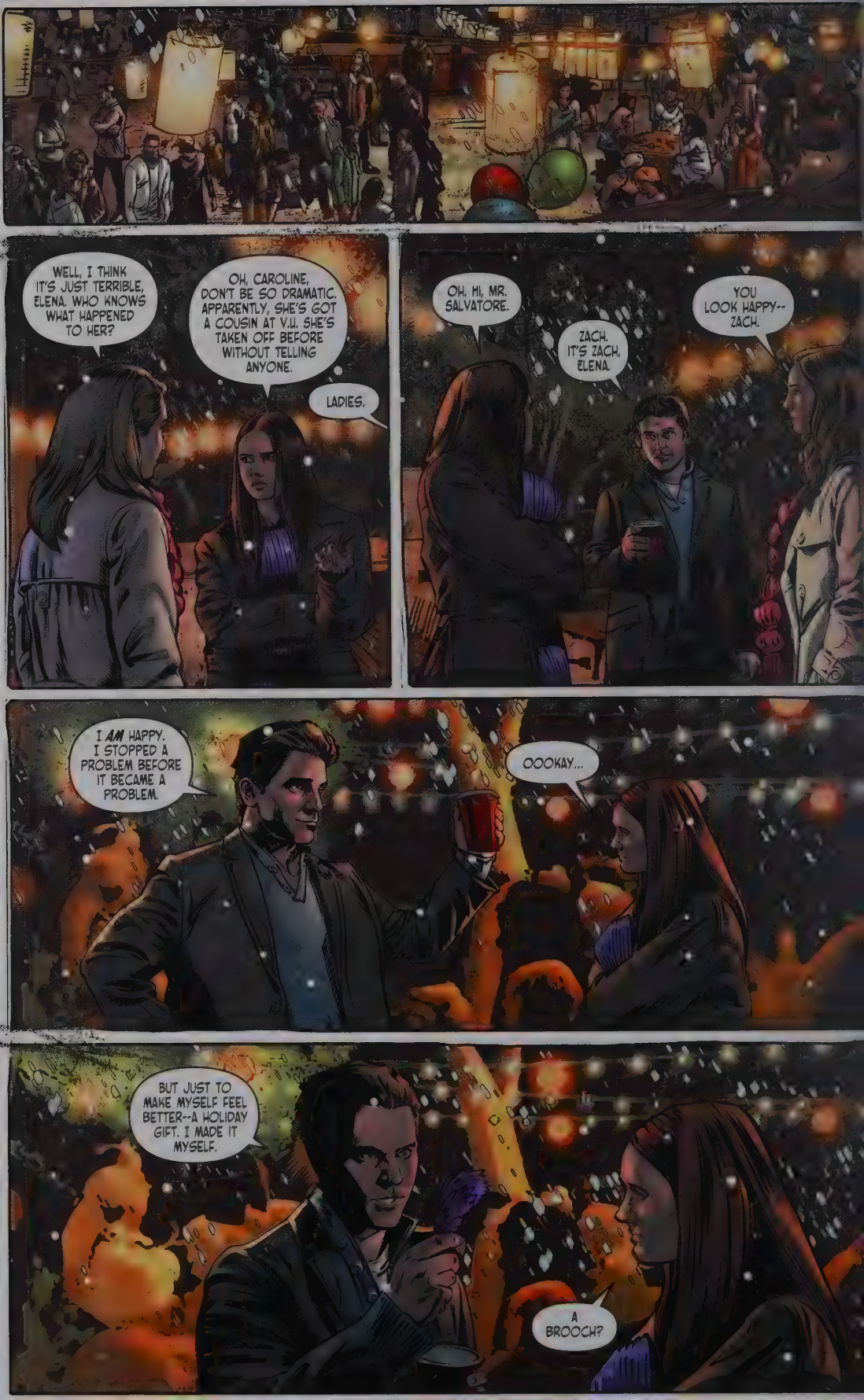
THUNK
THUNK
WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO JUST BUY A CHRISTMAS TREE?
I GUESS I LIKE TO DO THINGS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.
SAY, THAT'S A COINCIDENCE. SO DO WE.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE REALLY OLD-FASHIONED WAY.
MAYBE WE SHOULD SHOW HIM WHAT WE MEAN BY THAT.

WHAT THE HELL?
CRACK
AAAIIIEEEE!
THUK

NELSON!
NELSON? REALLY? A VAMPIRE NAMED NELSON?
YOU KILLED HIM! I'LL RIP YOUR THROAT OUT FOR THAT!
WILL YOU? SOMEHOW I DOUBT IT.
YOU'RE A VAMPIRE? THEN WHY WOULD YOU KILL NELSON? WHO ARE YOU?
STEFAN SALVATORE. AND THIS IS MY HOME.
WAIT--STEFAN-- YOU'RE DAMON'S BROTHER! I KNOW DAMON--HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME ABOUT MYSTIC FALLS.
WHAT? YOU KNOW MY BROTHER?

YEAH-- WE MET HIM IN NEW YORK. WE DRANK WITH HIM. RIGHT AFTER WE TURNED.
HE TOLD US ALL THESE STORIES ABOUT MYSTIC FALLS. ABOUT HOW IT USED TO BE FULL OF VAMPIRES, BUT HOW EVERYONE'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT THEM.
WELL, IT'S NOT COOL. IT'S NOT COOL AT ALL. THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN JUST WAITING FOR VAMPIRES TO RETURN. IT'S ABOUT THE LEAST COOL PLACE IN THE WORLD TO FEED.
SO, YOU KNOW--WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE COOL TO STIR THINGS UP AROUND HERE. HAVE SOME FUN.
WE DIDN'T KNOW, I SWEAR. AND I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE WITH YOU. I CAN FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO FEED. I JUST WISH YOU'D TALKED TO US BEFORE YOU KILLED NELSON.
LIKE I SAID--IT'S MY HOME.
OKAY, I GET IT NOW. DAMON TOLD US ALL ABOUT YOU, TOO. BUT WE HAD NO IDEA YOU'D BE HANGING AROUND MYSTIC FALLS.
FINE. THEN GO AND DON'T COME BACK. GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND.
FAIR ENOUGH. I'M GONE, MAN.
WAIT--YOU SAID DAMON TOLD YOU ALL ABOUT ME.

YEAH, HE DID.
SO, HE TOLD YOU THAT I DON'T FEED ON HUMANS.
ARE YOU KIDDING? THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS PISS OFF DAMON SALVATORE.
HEH. YEAH, HE DID. I CAN'T SAY I GET IT, BUT IF THAT'S YOUR THING, THAT'S YOUR THING.
SO, YOU KNOW YOU'RE PROBABLY STRONGER THAN ME SINCE YOU'VE BEEN FEEDING ON HUMANS. IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY WOULD YOU BACK DOWN SO EASILY?
THUK
ENNNNGGE


WELL, I THINK IT'S JUST TERRIBLE, ELENA. WHO KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
OH, CAROLINE, DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC. APPARENTLY, SHE'S GOT A COUSIN AT V.U. SHE'S TAKEN OFF BEFORE WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE.
LADIES.
OH. HI, MR. SALVATORE.
ZACH. IT'S ZACH, ELENA.
YOU LOOK HAPPY-- ZACH.
I AM HAPPY. I STOPPED A PROBLEM BEFORE IT BECAME A PROBLEM.
OOOKAY...
BUT JUST TO MAKE MYSELF FEEL BETTER--A HOLIDAY GIFT. I MADE IT MYSELF.
A BROOCH?

EXACTLY. I MADE IT MYSELF.
YEAH, YOU SAID THAT.
MR. SALVA--ZACH... I, UH--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
HAVE FUN, GIRLS. I BELIEVE I'LL GET MYSELF ANOTHER DRINK.
UM--WHAT'S THAT FLOWER, ZACH?
IT'S PRETTY, ISN'T IT? IT'S VERVAIN. GROWS WILD IN MY GARDEN. YOU MIGHT CALL IT THE OFFICIAL FLOWER OF MYSTIC FALLS.
WHOA. HOW WAS THAT FOR CREEPY? ISN'T HE FRIENDS WITH YOUR PARENTS?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT WAS. ALTHOUGH IT IS KIND OF PRETTY... I GUESS.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO WHISPERING ABOUT?
ELENA HAS A NOT-SO-SECRET ADMIRER. AN OLDER MAN.
OH, SHUT UP, CAROLINE.

I realize now that a part of me will always belong to Mystic Falls.
And a part of me wanted to climb down and join them. Just let my guard down and be human for a while.
--Or as human as I can be, anyway.
Maybe someday.

DAY OF THE HUNTER

LEAH MOORE
& JOHN REPPION

BENI LOBEL

WENDY BROOME

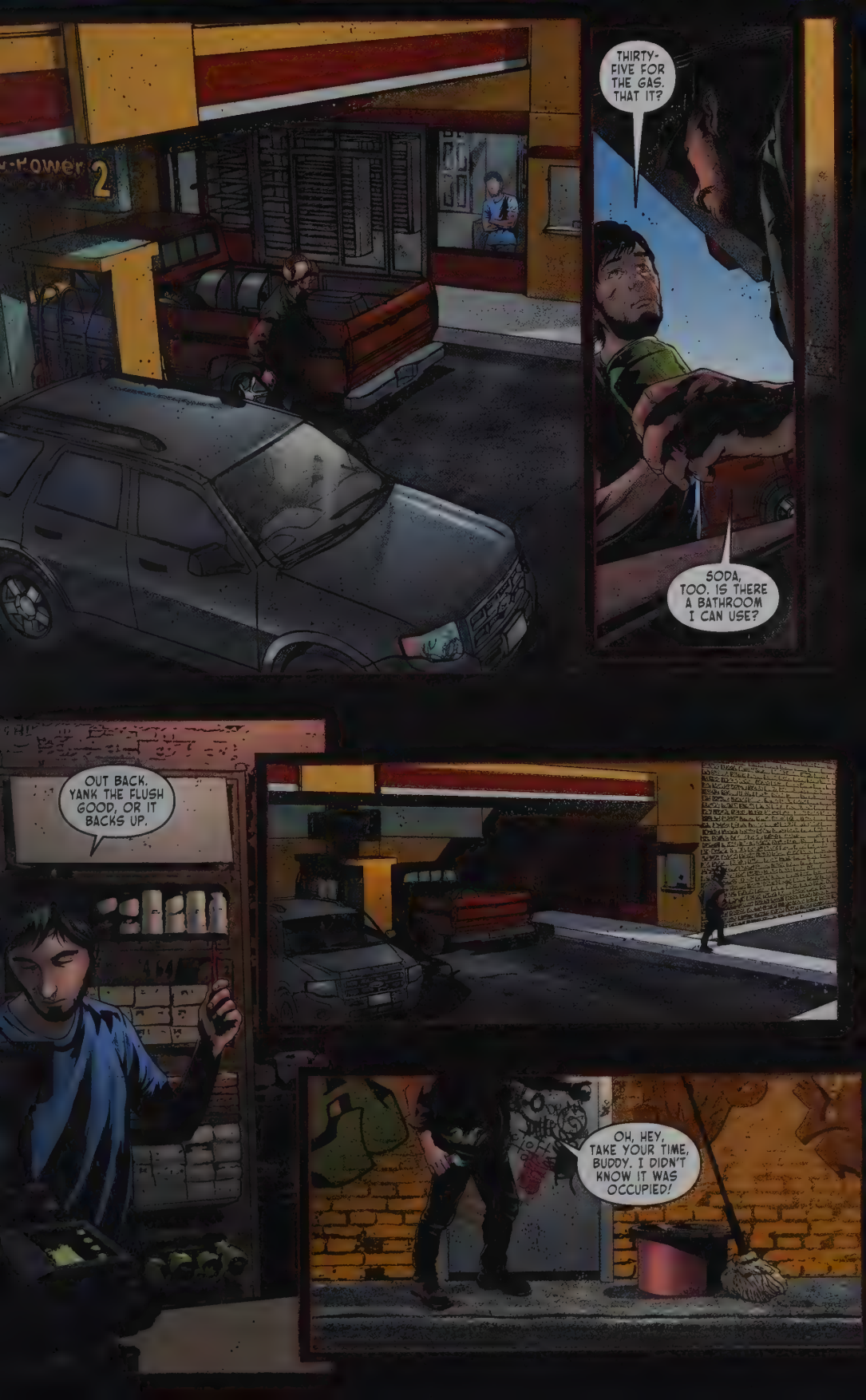
THE VAMPIRE DIARIES Digital Chapters #1-4
cover by Alan Quah, Jason Gorder & Garry Henderson

THERE SHE IS...
...STEADY, GIRL... NOTHING TO SEE HERE...
...AH, NUTS!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF...HE'S A--A...

OH, NO.
OH GOD, NO.

YOU SHOULD NOT BE HERE, MY FRIEND.
YOU REALIZE THAT NOW, DON'T YOU?
YOU SEE, YOU WEREN'T EVER HERE, WERE YOU?
YOU LOST THE DEER, AND DECIDED TO CALL IT A DAY AND GO HOME.
I--I LOST THE DEER... I DECIDED TO GO HOME.

HUH.
NEED GAS.
DIESEL FUEL ONLY

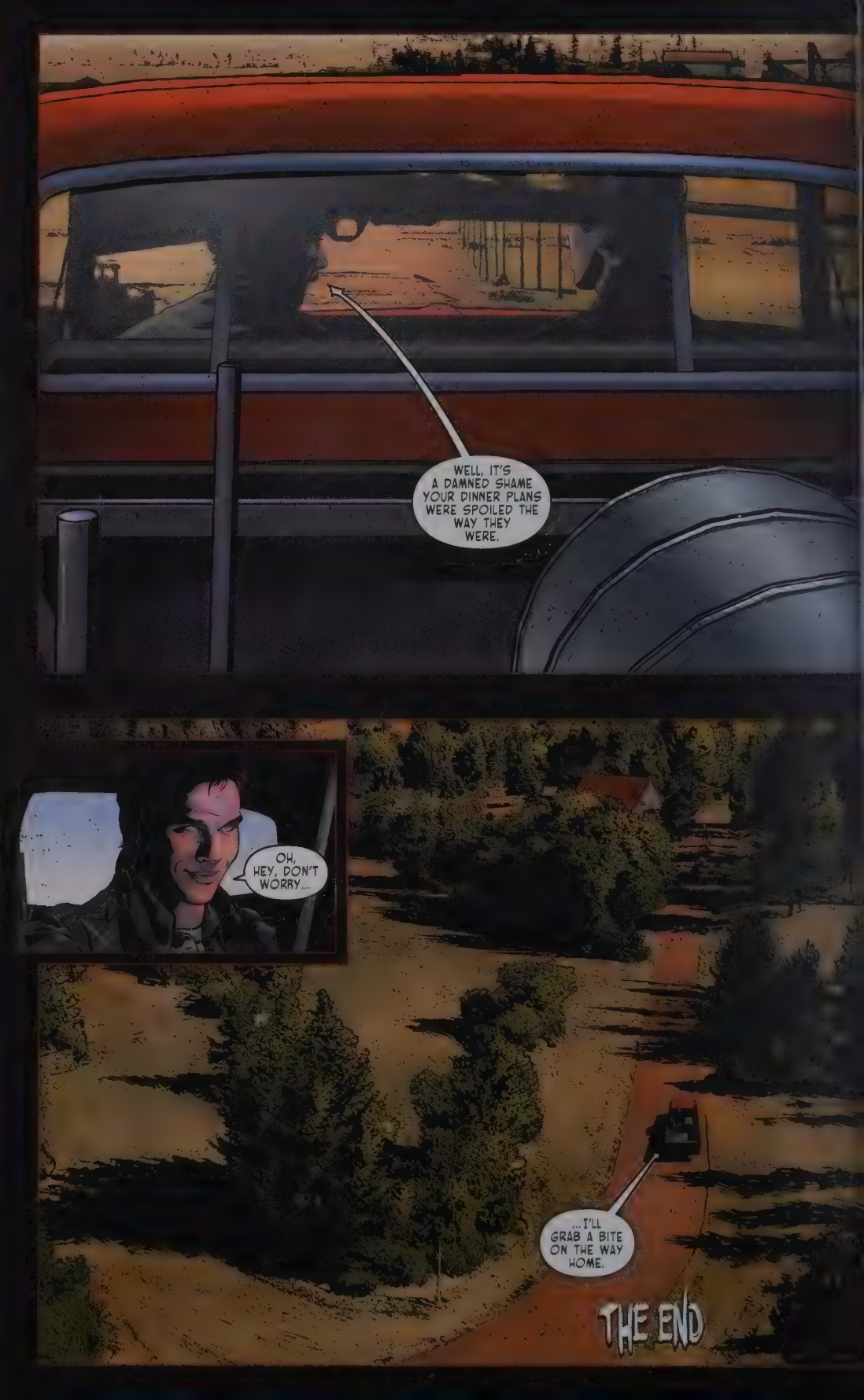

THIRTY-FIVE FOR THE GAS. THAT IT?
SODA, TOO. IS THERE A BATHROOM I CAN USE?
OUT BACK. YANK THE FLUSH GOOD, OR IT BACKS UP.
OH, HEY, TAKE YOUR TIME, BUDDY. I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS OCCUPIED!

DAMMIT!
TING
HOW DO I DO IT? EVERY TIME!
UH, MISS? DID YOU DROP YOUR RING?
OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH!
COULD YOU PASS IT IN TO ME, PLEASE?
UH, I'M SORRY, THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING, BUT COULD YOU COME FURTHER IN?
WOW, IT'S DARK IN HERE...
IT'S OKAY. YOUR EYES WILL ADJUST.

I WAS TRYING TO WASH MY HANDS, BUT IT MUST'VE BEEN THE SOAP...
...MY RING SLIPPED RIGHT OFF MY FINGER.
UH. TH-THERE YOU GO, THEN.
THANK YOU! SO MUCH!
N-NO PROBLEM AT ALL. GLAD TO HELP.
AH, THAT'S BETTER. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH NICER THAT FEELS.
OF COURSE, YOU WERE NEVER HERE, AND WILL REMEMBER NOTHING OF THIS...

...WAS "PENSACOLA," WHICH I THINK IS GONNA BE BIG THIS SUMMER...
FZZZT... THIS IS CLASSIC COUNTRY WRBY 99.1 FM, GALAX AND SALEM, WE 'PPRECIATE YOU LISTENIN', FOLKS. HERE'S GARY MORRIS AND "HEADED FOR A HEARTACHE"...
COLLEGE ROCK? GOTTA BE SOMTHIN' ELSE... LEMME SEE...
...LORD, I AM PARCHED.
WHERE THE HECK'S MY SODA? CAN'T HAVE ROLLED OFF OR...
SCREEE
...WHAT AM I THINKIN'? WHERE WOULD I GET A SODA FROM? LOSIN' IT, OLD MAN. LOSIN' IT.

HEY, THANKS FOR STOPPING. I'D JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP.
NO TROUBLE, BUDDY, NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
YOU'RE A LONG WAY OUT OF TOWN ON FOOT, AIN'T YOU?
YEAH, I HAD A FIGHT WITH MY BROTHER OVER WHAT TO HAVE FOR DINNER.
HE PULLED OVER AND TOLD ME TO GET OUT AND WALK.
WELL I'M NOT LOCAL--JUST HERE ON A HUNTIN' TRIP--BUT I CAN DROP YOU IN MYSTIC FALLS IF THAT WOULD HELP.
THAT WOULD BE GREAT, THANK YOU. MY NAME IS DAMON, BY THE WAY. DAMON SALVATORE.


WELL, IT'S A DAMNED SHAME YOUR DINNER PLANS WERE SPOILED THE WAY THEY WERE.
OH, HEY, DON'T WORRY...
...I'LL GRAB A BITE ON THE WAY HOME.
THE END

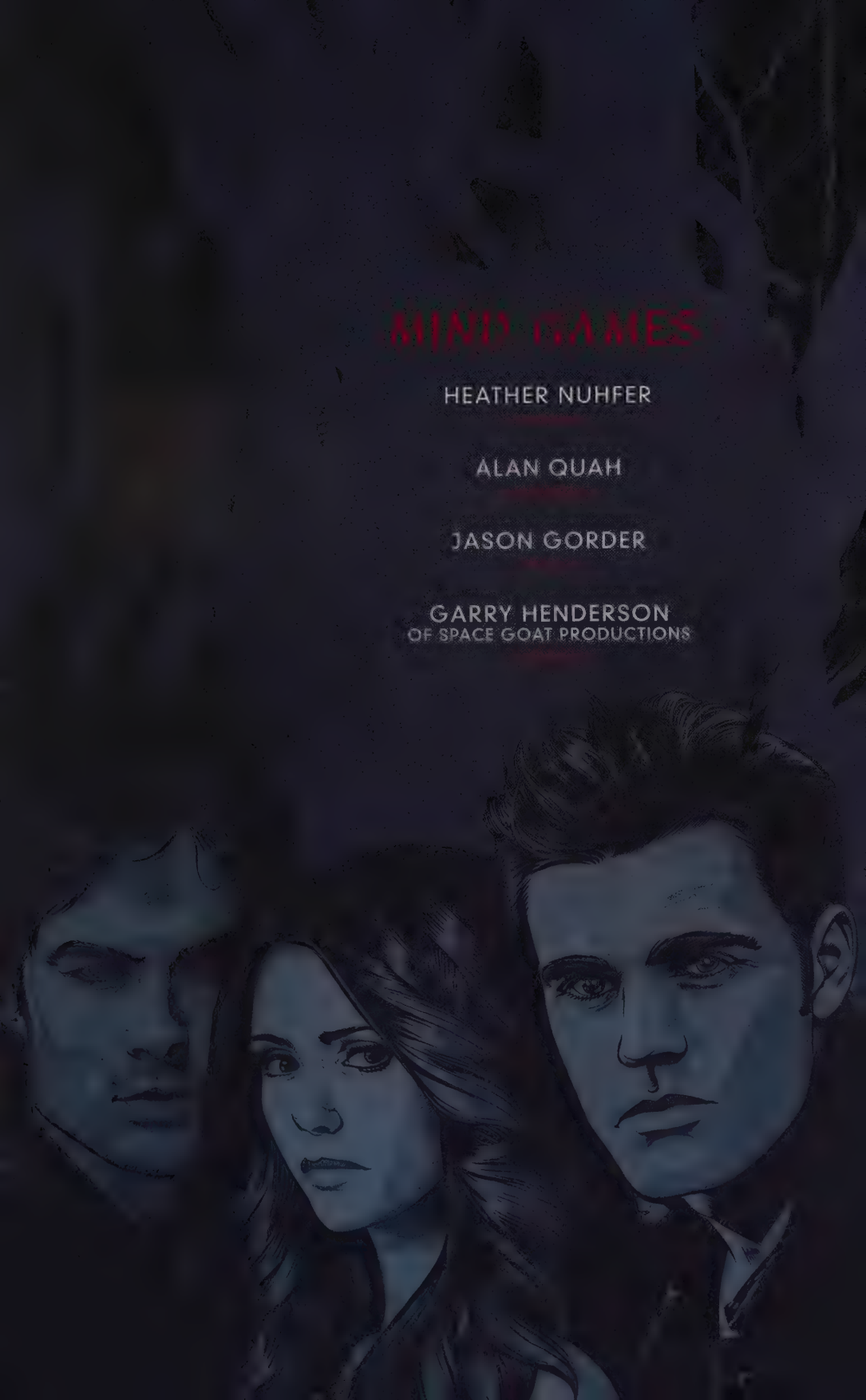
MIND GAMES

HEATHER NUHFER

ALAN QUAH

JASON GORDER

GARRY HENDERSON
OF SPACE GOAT PRODUCTIONS



THE VAMPIRE DIARIES Digital Chapter #8
cover by Alan Quah, Jason Gorder & Garry Henderson

THREE GENERATIONS TOGETHER! WHO WOULD HAVE EVER THOUGHT?
LET'S ENJOY IT WHILE WE CAN-- BEYOND THE VEIL, OUR MAGIC CAN CREATE THIS BEAUTIFUL REUNION, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE CAN SUSTAIN IT.
THIS HAS TO BE PRETTY FUN FOR EMILY--SHE'S THE YOUNGEST AND THE OLDEST AT THE SAME TIME!
IT IS NICE TO FEEL LIKE A SPRING CHICKEN EVERY ONCE AND AGAIN!
OH, HUSH, GRAMS! YOU'RE GORGEOUS INSIDE AND OUT, RIGHT, EMILY?
EMILY?
SARAH, RUN! NO! NO!
SHE MEANS NO HARM! LEAVE HER!
NO!!

GRAMS, WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY IS SHE SAYING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER AGAIN?
IT SEEMS SHE'S RELIVING THE SAME TERRIFYING MEMORY IN A CONSTANT LOOP.
SARAH, RUN... RUN!
WE HAVE TO HELP HER!
SHE ISN'T A STRONG ENOUGH WITCH TO FORCE HERSELF OUT OF IT.
BUT YOU ARE.
W-WHAT CAN I DO?
"YOU MUST ENTER EMILY'S MEMORY AND MOVE HER PAST THIS TRAUMATIC EVENT. DO NOT ALTER IT. DO NOT CHANGE HER MEMORY, FOR WITH IT, YOU CHANGE THE PAST."
ET-MEMORAIE-CHAN-LO-ETERNUM...
...BOSK-ELOHMA-NIGH-ETERNUM...

...FORTU-GRAVA-ELLIGE-ETERNUM!
=GASP=
HELP HER COME TO TERMS, AND THEN YOU WILL BE BROUGHT BACK TO US.
TREAD LIGHTLY IN THE PAST, MY DEAR!
YES, GRAMS, I WILL!
I LOVE YOU!
I LOVE YOU BOTH.

"SARAH! NO! RUN!"
GUESS THAT'S ME.
EMILY! EMILY, HELP!
BURN HER!
BURN HER!
EMILY! EMILY, HELP!
TELL THEM YOU ARE NOT A WITCH!
I CANNOT LIE!
MIND YOUR TONGUE, YOU WITCH!
MIND YOUR TONGUE, YOU WITCH!
SAVE OUR TOWN FROM HER WICKED WAYS!
SAVE OUR TOWN FROM HER WICKED WAYS!
BURN HER?! NO!
NO WITCH DESERVES TO DIE LIKE THIS. I HAVE TO STOP IT. I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS.
I WILL SHOW YOU FIRE!
IF I HELP HER, THEY'LL KNOW I'M A WITCH AND BURN ME, TOO.
ENCARTE-FAVRAATE...
AAH!
FETCH SOME WATER!
THIS IS THE WITCH'S DOING!
I AM A COWARD. I'M SO SORRY, SARAH. I'M SORRY...

THAT WAS AMAZING! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU DO ANYTHING *THAT POWERFUL* BEFORE!
I SHOULD BE BACK NOW. I SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
WE CAN'T BE LOST! YOU SAID WE WOULD HIDE OUT IN THE SECRET PLACE WHERE YOU PRACTICE MAGIC!
EMILY? ARE YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK... STRANGE.
OWW!
HOW DO I KNOW WHERE EMILY'S SECRET SPOT IS? OUR MEMORIES MUST HAVE MELDED WHEN I CHANGED THE PAST AND SAVED SARAH...

HOME SWEET HOME.
...AT LEAST UNTIL I FIND A WAY BACK...
AS LONG AS I'M HERE, I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU HOW TO PROPERLY CONTROL YOUR POWERS. THEN, ONCE YOU MOVE TO A NEW TOWN, YOU CAN KEEP IT ON THE DOWNLOW--ER...I MEAN, KEEP IT A SECRET.
BUT I COME FROM ONE OF THE OLDEST FAMILIES IN MYSTIC FALLS! THIS TOWN IS MINE. I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO HIDE.
WELL, GET USED TO IT. SOME FOLKS AREN'T READY FOR OUR KIND YET, AND I'M PRETTY SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE CRISPIFIED.
WE START TRAINING TOMORROW.

YOU'VE ADVANCED SO QUICKLY, SARAH! YOU ARE FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN I WAS AT YOUR AGE...
I WILL BE MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY WITCH, EVEN YOU... EMILY.
ITALI-OSOM-BRIK-ITALS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE DON'T HURT THOSE WHO DON'T DESERVE IT.
HAVE YOU NEVER FELT THE SHARP POINT? A BEE CARES ONLY FOR ITS OWN HOME AND HONEY. NOT FOR ANYONE WHO HAS SUFFERED ITS STING.

SARAH?
ZZZZZZ
I'LL HAVE MY PIE LATER, ELSIE...LEAVE ME BE.
COUGH
YOU... YOU DARE COME BACK HERE?!
THIS IS MY HOME, SIR. I DESERVE TO LIVE HERE!
AS FOR YOU...
CARMINE GROCER
I DON'T THINK SO, SARAH.
THESE PEOPLE HAVE HURT YOU, BUT THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO TEACH THEM--TO BE ACCEPTED!
THESE PEASANTS WILL NEVER ACCEPT OUR KIND. THEY NEED TO PAY FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO US!

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. I AM SO VERY POWERFUL. I DOUBT EVEN YOU COULD STOP ME, EMILY. YOU SIMPLY AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH.
WELL, I GUESS IT'S CONFESSION TIME, BECAUSE...
...I'M NOT EMILY.
VARACI-DON-TARE-ICILETE!
OH, EMILY. DEAR, SWEET, EMILY OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS.
YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE AN IMPOSTOR? YOU STEAL MY DEAREST FRIEND FROM ME AND THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE?!
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU KILL ME SOONER?
BANK OF MYSTIC FALLS

I NEEDED A TEACHER--A POWERFUL ONE! HOW COULD I RESIST LEARNING YOUR TRICKS AND USING THEM AGAINST THIS TOWN, AND YOU...?
EMILY NEVER WOULD HAVE WANTED THIS!
EMILY NEVER STOOD UP FOR HERSELF. SHE NEVER FOUGHT THESE SIMPLETONS!
IT WASN'T REALLY HER FAULT... SHE JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH.
BUT SHE WAS YOUR ONLY FRIEND!
SHE WAS...AND YOU KILLED HER.
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
BONNIE... BONNIE, LET ME IN.
NO, EMILY, OU CAN'T...SARAH, SHE--SHE'S TOO STRONG...
STAY WITH GRAMS...
YOU TOOK MY EMILY AWAY! YOU DESERVE TO DIE, JUST LIKE ALL OF THESE FOOLS!

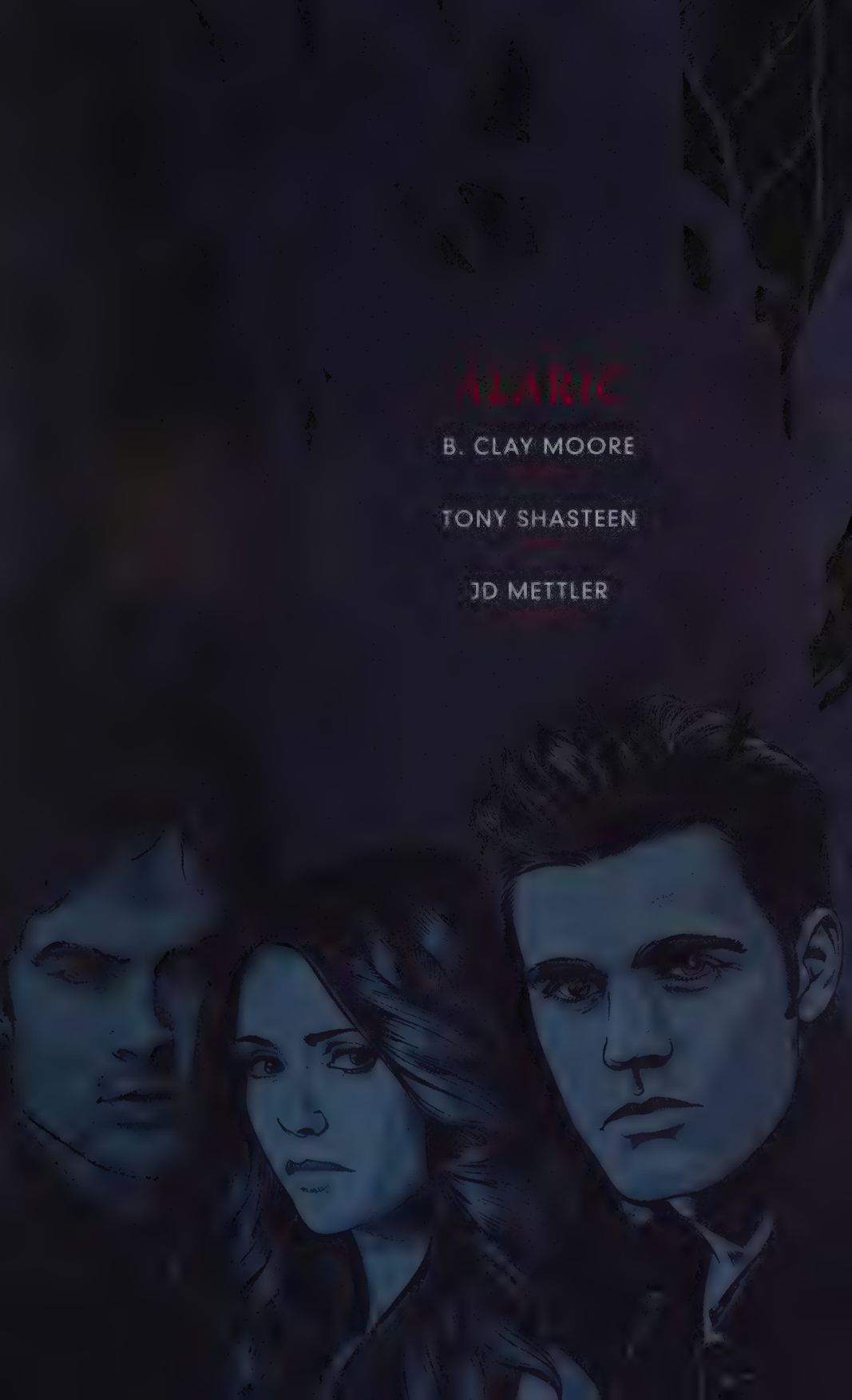
E-EMILY?! YOU'RE HERE!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, SARAH?
A WITCH TOOK OVER YOUR BODY! AND, AND THEY WERE GOING TO KILL ME!
OH, SARAH, I WAS SO DESPERATE FOR YOU TO LIVE THAT I CAST A SPELL TO TAKE ME BACK, TO CHANGE YOUR DESTINY, BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG...
...BONNIE TRIED TO SAVE YOU FOR ME BUT IT DIDN'T WORK. INSTEAD...
I'VE KILLED MYSELF WITH MY OWN MAGIC.
IT'S OKAY, EMILY. THIS DEATH IS THE DEATH I CHOOSE. NOT IN FIRE AND FEAR, BUT WITH MY ONLY TRUE FRIEND AT MY SIDE. I CAN REST IN PEACE.
SHE IS FREE NOW, MY DEAR. AND SO ARE YOU.
The End

ALARIC

B. CLAY MOORE

TONY SHASTEEN

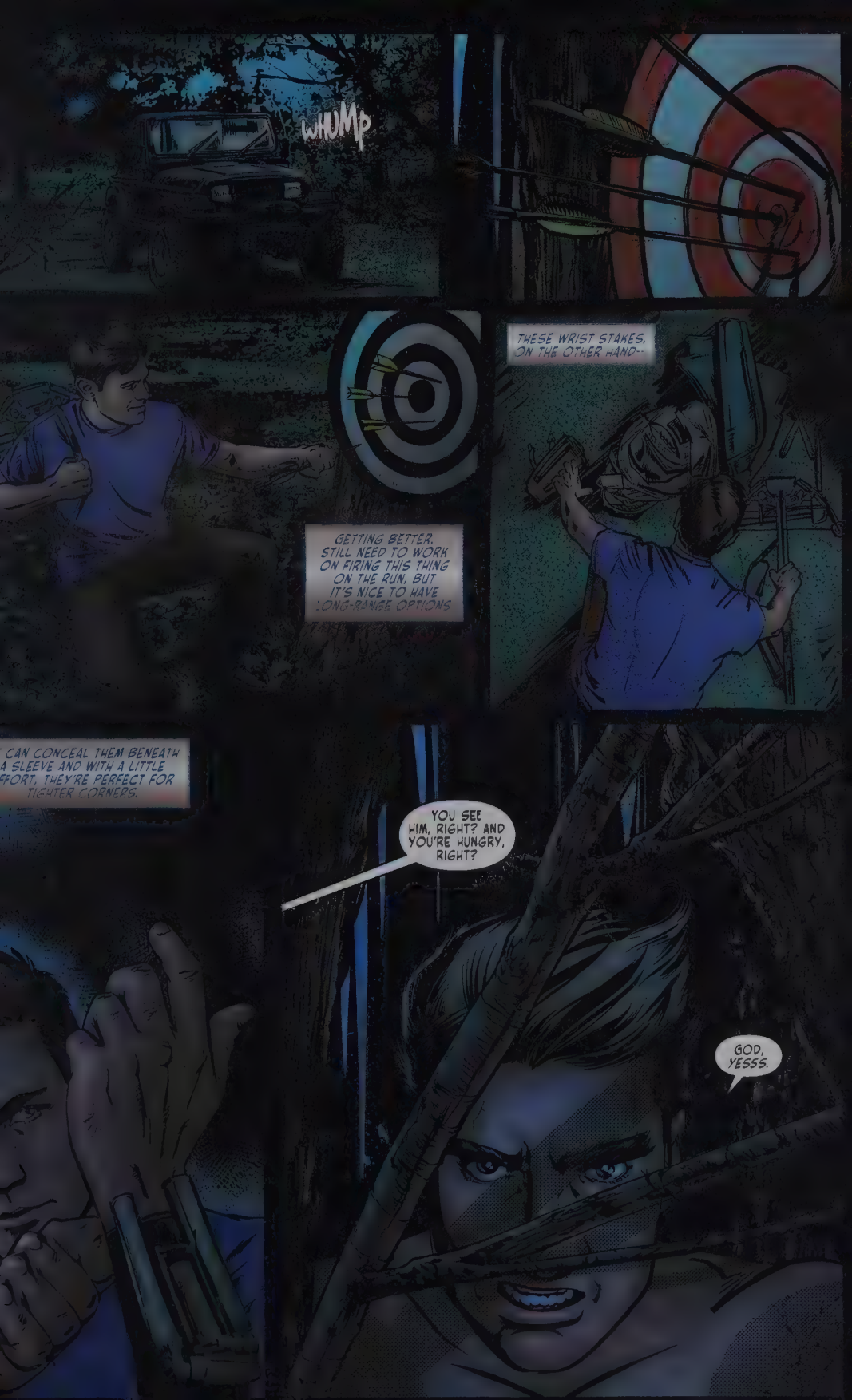
JD METTLER



SNNGE
DAMN IT.
FEELS LIKE I SPRAINED MY SHOULDER.
THEN AGAIN, I SUPPO
I'M LUCKY IF THAT'S
THE WORST OF
FRANKLY, I'M LUCKY I HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE ON MY SIDE, OR HE MIGHT HAVE RIPPED MY ARM CLEAN OFF.
BUT I DID IT. I REALLY DID IT--

I KILLED A VAMPIRE.
STILL, WAS A LOT OF WORK. BUT IT GAVE ME SOME IDEAS ON HOW TO IMPROVE THINGS.
AND ONCE I'VE DONE THAT, I'LL BE READY TO TAKE OUT THE BASTARD WHO TOOK ISOBEL.

FOR SALE
I'VE HAD FUN THESE PAST TWO DAYS, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO DO FOR ME, PAUL.
OKAY.
MMM. THAT'S A GOOD BOY. DRINK UP. THIS MAY BE UNPLEASANT, BUT YOU'LL THANK ME LATER.
SNAP
OR MAYBE YOU WON'T.


WHUMP
GETTING BETTER. STILL NEED TO WORK ON FIRING THIS THING ON THE RUN, BUT IT'S NICE TO HAVE LONG-RANGE OPTIONS.
THESE WRIST STAKES, ON THE OTHER HAND--
CAN CONCEAL THEM BENEATH A SLEEVE AND WITH A LITTLE EFFORT, THEY'RE PERFECT FOR TIGHTER CORNERS.
YOU SEE HIM, RIGHT? AND YOU'RE HUNGRY, RIGHT?
GOD, YESSS.

ENNGE
THAT'S ALARIC SALTZMAN. FEED, AND THE TRANSFORMATION IS COMPLETE. THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, RIGHT?
YES.
YEAH. THAT SHOULD PUT THE BRAKES ON AN ATTACK.
THEN GO.
WHAT--?

YES!
HOLY SH--
AH!
GET UP, BALTZMAN. I NEED A LITTLE HELP FROM YOU.
UHH. DO I-- DO I KNOW YOU?
NO, BUT IT'S TIME TO GET ACQUAINTED.
FAIR-- FAIR ENOUGH.

LET'S START LIKE THIS.
AAARGH
CHUNK
THAT-- HURT.
KIND OF THE IDEA, FRIEND.
UNNGHE
FOR STARTERS, ANYWAY.
YOU'RE BLEEDING. I CAN SMELL THE BLOOD, SALTZMAN. THAT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE THE PAIN GO AWAY.
RIGHT, RIGHT. JUST--SIT TIGHT.
I DON'T THINK SO. SORRY IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY, BUT I NEED YOUR BLOOD.
DAMN IT--

I WOULDN'T DO IT. I'M JUST LETTING YOU KNOW YOU'RE ABOUT TO MAKE A HUGE MISTAKE.
I SAID YOUR PUNY STAKE HURT, SALTZMAN. BUT A LITTLE PAIN IS WORTH THE EFFORT.
I'LL-- =UNGHE-- REMEMBER YOU SAID THAT.
=UNGH=
WHAT--?
COME ON, MAN. YOU'RE QUICKER THAN I THOUGHT, SURE, BUT YOU KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO--TO--
HURTS MORE THAN A LITTLE, RIGHT?
WHAT--WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME? I CAN'T-- CAN'T TAKE THE PAIN.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I WASN'T SURE THAT WOULD WORK. BUT THAT PUNY STAKE WAS DOUSED IN VERVAIN. AND IT LOOKS LIKE MY SOURCES WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE EFFECT VERVAIN HAS ON VAMPIRES. EVEN WANNABE VAMPIRES.
I'LL STILL--I CAN STILL--
NO-- YOU CAN'T.
KATHUNK
HUU--
WHEW. ADRENALINE RUSH.
OH, RICK. SO MANY TRICKS UP YOUR SLEEVE.
WHAT--?

OH, MAN.
NOT SURE HOW MUCH MORE OF THAT I CAN TAKE.
TWEEDLE
TWEEDLE
TWEEDLE
EEDLE
EEDLE
EEDLE
TWEEDLE
HUH.
THIS IS ALARIC SALTZMAN. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
AH--MR. SALTZMAN. THIS IS BRENDA CLARKE FROM MYSTIC FALLS HIGH SCHOOL. IN MYSTIC FALLS, VIRGINIA? I WAS ASKED BY OUR SUPERINTENDENT TO GIVE YOU A CALL ABOUT YOUR RECENT APPLICATION FOR OUR VACANT TEACHING POSITION...
THE END

1969

SEAN E. WILLIAMS

XERMANICO

REX LOKUS

THERE'S MEONE I'D E YOU TO MEET.
WHERE ARE WE, GRAMS?
BEYOND THE VEIL.
SOME CALL IT "THE OTHER SIDE." SOME CALL IT "THE VOID."
AH. THERE SHE IS.
HI, MOM.
YOU MUST BE BONNIE. IT'S NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU...
...ALTHOUGH A LITTLE SOONER THAN ANY OF US WOULD HAVE WANTED, I THINK.
BONNIE, THIS IS MY MOTHER, YOUR GREAT-GRANDMOTHER, AMELIA BENNETT.
I SAW YOUR GRAVESTONE--
ISN'T IT LOVELY? STEFAN WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE SURE IT LOOKED NICE.
YOU KNOW STEFAN?
THE BENNETT WOMEN HAVE KNOWN THE SALVATORE BROTHERS SINCE BEFORE SHEILA HERE WAS BORN.
I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM...

"DEAR DIARY, I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY DID IT. I RAN AWAY FROM HOME TO GO TO THE WOODSTOCK FESTIVAL.
"MY MOM WOULDN'T LET ME GO, BUT I'M ALMOST 14, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! I KNOW I'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT WHEN I GET BACK, BUT IT WAS SO WORTH IT.
"EVERYONE HERE IS AMAZING, AND THEY'RE SO TAPPED INTO WHAT'S HAPPENING. IT'S OPENED MY MIND TO SO MUCH!
WARNOW
"NO ONE IN MYSTIC FALLS EVEN TALKS ABOUT THE WAR ANYMORE, BUT PEOPLE ARE STILL DYING OVER THERE.
"I WISH SOMEONE WOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT."
WHERE YOU GOING, LITTLE GIRL?

IS THERE A PROBLEM HERE?
UH...
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, MAN?
NO PROBLEM AS LONG AS YOU ALL LEAVE.
YEAH...WE WERE GONNA GO FIND SOME OF THAT BROWN STUFF J.B.S. WAS TALKING ABOUT.
OU KAY?
M STEFAN. AND S IS MY FRIEND I. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SHEILA. SHEILA BENNETT.
SHEILA BENNETT? YOU WOULDN'T BE FROM MYSTIC FALLS, BY ANY CHANCE, WOULD YOU?
HOW... HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
BECAUSE I'M FROM MYSTIC FALLS, ALTHOUGH I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK IN A FEW YEARS.
IS YOUR MOTHER HERE? I SHOULD SAY HELLO.
WELL...
DOES YOUR MOTHER KNOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, SHEILA?

NOT EXACTLY.
SIGH.
WELL, I HADN'T PLANNED ON GOING BACK SO SOON, BUT...
...COME ON. WE'LL DRIVE YOU HOME.
WAIT...
...HOW CAN YOU BE FRIENDS WITH MY MOTHER? YOU'RE ONLY A FEW YEARS OLDER THAN ME.
SHOULD WE TELL HER?
ARE YOU HIGH?
PROBABLY.
YOUR MOM'S ONLY GOING TO GET ANGRIER THE LONGER--
COME ON. STEFAN'S GOT A SWEET RIDE. WE'LL BE BACK IN MYSTIC FALLS IN NO TIME.
SHE RAN AWAY, AND YOU KNOW HOW MAD AMELIA GETS ABOUT, WELL, EVERYTHING.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE SHOULD GET YOU HOME.
I CAN GET HOME ON MY OWN!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE ME MISS HENDRIX.
LEXI, I'M SORRY.
WE'LL CATCH HIM AGAIN SOME OTHER TIME.
I WOULD HAVE STUCK AROUND IF YOU'D LET ME.
YOU KNOW HOW YOUR MOM GETS.
I KNOW, RIGHT?!
FOR THE RECORD, I'M NOT GOING TO BE THERE WHEN YOU TALK TO HER. THIS WAS YOUR IDEA, STEFAN.
YOU GIRLS STAY HERE. I'LL TRY TO DEFUSE HER BEFORE YOU GET--
SHEILA, IS THAT YOU?!!
OH.
HELLO, AMELIA.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH SHEILA?
I CAN EXPLAIN--
HI, AMELIA!
EVERYONE GET INSIDE BEFORE SOMEONE SEES YOU!

THE FOUNDERS COUNCIL HAS BEEN ON ALERT FOR THE LAST...SEVEN YEARS, I THINK? THERE WAS A SERIES OF ATTACKS IN 1962. THE PAPER SAID THEY WERE ANIMAL ATTACKS, BUT...
DAMON.
WHO'S DAMON?
MY BROTHER.
REGARDLESS, IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOU HERE. IF THE COUNCIL FINDS YOU--
THEY WON'T FIND US. WE'LL STAY AT THE BOARDING HOUSE.
BESIDES, I DON'T...UH...HAVE THE SAME...DIETARY REQUIREMENTS THAT I USED TO.
GLAD TO HEAR IT. I'M SICK OF COVERING FOR YOUR ASS.

HAS IT REALLY BEEN THAT LONG?
SINCE BEFORE SHEILA WAS BORN, YEAH.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER FATHER?
LEFT AS SOON AS HE FOUND OUT WHAT I WAS.
THAT'S A SHAME. YOU DESERVE TO BE HAPPY.
SO DO YOU. YOUR LIFE IS HARDER THAN MOST.
SHH. NO MORE TALKING.
OW DO D STEFAN MY MOM? EVER DID L ME.
WELL, THAT'S A LONG STORY.
THE SHORT VERSION IS: YOU KNOW HOW YOU AND YOUR MOTHER ARE WITCHES?
HOW...???
WELL, WE'RE VAMPIRES.

AAAAAHHHH!!
SHEILA?!
HAHAHAH
THAT'S SO TRIPPY!
I KNOW, RIGHT?
WHAT HAPPENED?!
SHEILA! YOUR MOUTH! IT'S FOAMING! WHAT DID SHE--?
IT'S JUST TOOTHPASTE, MOM. RELAX!
THEY'RE VAMPIRES, MOM!
MAYBE WE SHOULD GET GOING.
AAAWWW! IT WAS JUST GETTING FUN!

I COULD HEAR YOU TWO WHEN YOU WERE DOWNSTAIRS, YOU KNOW.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THAT LATER.
FINE. LATER.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT, AMELIA. IT WAS MY FAULT.
I JUST COULDN'T LIE TO HER ABOUT...WHO WE ARE.
I UNDERSTAND. IT WAS ABOUT TIME SHE KNEW THERE WAS MORE OUT THERE THAN JUST WITCHES.
AND I'M JUST GLAD IT WAS YOU TWO, AND NOT SOME OTHER VAMPIRES.
SO... YOU'RE NOT MAD?
HAHAHA! NO! I HAVEN'T BEEN "ANGRY AMELIA" IN YEARS.
THAT'S NOT WHAT--
OOF!
THANKS FOR DRIVING HER BACK.
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH I MISSED YOU BOTH UNTIL TONIGHT.

SWING BACK BY ONCE YOU'VE SETTLED IN AND WE'LL CATCH UP PROPERLY!
CLICK!
OKAY, BUB. WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU AND HER HAD A THING.
IT'S...A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT.
THEN LET'S GO GET SOME COFFEE WHILE YOU TELL ME.
I THINK IT MIGHT CALL FOR SOMETHING STRONGER.
MISTER MAYOR, YOU MIGHT WANT TO SEE THIS.
AMELIA BENNETT HAS GUESTS.
CALL THE COUNCIL TIME WE HAD ANOTHER MEETING.

"DEAR DIARY, IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES, AND MY FIRST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL!
"MARY AND LINDA GOT SO JEALOUS WHEN I TOLD THEM I WENT TO WOODSTOCK. LINDA SAID SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, BUT SHE WAS CONVINCED BY THE PICTURES I TOOK.
"NO ONE AT SCHOOL IS TALKING ABOUT VIETNAM, THOUGH. IT'S LIKE IT'S NOT EVEN HAPPENING!
"THE PRESIDENT SAID HE'D END THE DRAFT, BUT HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING SO FAR.
"AND EVERYONE'S OKAY WITH THIS! I SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT IF NO ONE ELSE IS.
"I HAVEN'T SEEN STEFAN OR LEXI SINCE THEY DROVE ME BACK FROM THE FESTIVAL.
"I THOUGHT STEFAN MIGHT BE AT SCHOOL SINCE HE LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THE SENIORS, BUT HE HASN'T SHOWN UP YET."

FOURTH ONE THIS MONTH, MAYOR.
AND YOU'RE THINKING... WHAT, EXACTLY?
THAT WE GOT VAMPIRES.
NOW, WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT, HERB?
VAMPIRES FEED ON HUMANS, NOT DEER.
MAYBE THEY'RE... EVOLVING, OR WHATEVER IT IS.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
LOOK, MAYOR, THESE ATTACK MARKS ARE THE SAME AS THE ONES FROM SEVEN YEARS AGO.
EXCEPT THOSE WERE ON HUMANS.
IT IS OUR JOB AS THE FOUNDERS COUNCIL TO PROTECT THIS TOWN!
FROM WHAT, HERB? AN ANIMAL THAT'S KILLING DEER?
CALL ME WHEN YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT'S THREATENING MY VOTING CONSTITUENCY.

"DEAR DIARY, WELL, I'VE DONE IT. I'VE ORGANIZED A SIT-IN. IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH, ACTUALLY. WELL, NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
"FIRST, I PUT UP POSTERS, BUT NO ONE SEEMED TO NOTICE. SO THEN I STARTED HANDING OUT FLIERS, BUT PEOPLE WERE JUST THROWING THEM AWAY.
"THEN, I NOTICED HOW PATTY SMITH WAS ALL OVER JAMES RICHARDS IN THE HALL. BUT HE WASN'T HAVING IT.
"I TOLD HER THAT IF SHE GOT THE CHEERLEADING SQUAD TO SHOW UP, I'D HELP HER GET JAMES FOR HOMECOMING.
"SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, SO I PUT A LOVE POTION IN JAMES'S THERMOS. NOW HE CAN'T KEEP HIS HANDS OFF HER.
"IF THE SQUAD'S THERE, THE FOOTBALL PLAYERS WON'T BE FAR BEHIND, AND EVERYONE ELSE WILL FOLLOW THEM.
"NOW, WE'LL SEE IF ANYONE SHOWS UP."

STEFAN, WE HAVE TO MOVE ON. I'M DYING HERE!
I KNOW. I JUST... HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS.
WITH AMELIA?
YES... WITH AMELIA.
HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU HOW YOU HAVE A PROBLEM LETTING GO?
FIRST, KATHERINE, NOW--
LEAVE KATHERINE OUT OF THIS.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. WE'VE STAYED TOO LONG.
THANK YOU!
I'LL SAY MY GOODBYES, AND WE CAN LEAVE.
HAPPY?

RIIING
IS IT TIME ALREADY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE LEAVING. WE BARELY GOT TO HANG OUT THIS PAST MONTH.
KNOW, I--
MOM? WHO IS IT?
OH, HI, STEFAN.
HI, SHEILA. I WAS JUST SAYING GOODBYE TO YOUR--
BLEED! BLEED!
OH, NO.
EVENING, FOLKS.
WAS JUST DRIVING BY AND THOUGHT I'D SAY HELLO.
IS THERE A PROBLEM, OFFICER?
NO PROBLEM. JUST KEEPING TABS.
DIDN'T I SEE YOU UP AT THE SALVATORE HOUSE?
YES, THAT'S WHERE I'VE BEEN STAYING.
SHERIFF, THIS IS STEVEN SALVATORE.
STEVEN?
A DISTANT BRANCH ON THE TREE. I WAS JUST VISITING TO SEE THE FAMILY PROPERTY. IT'S LEGENDARY.

IT CERTAINLY IS. HOW LONG YOU BEEN STAYING THERE, MR. SALVATORE?
ABOUT A MONTH. WHY?
A MONTH? INTERESTING. WE'VE HAD SOME STRANGE ATTACKS OVER THE PAST MONTH.
ATTACKS?
ANIMAL ATT--
EXCUSE ME, FOLKS...
...BUT I SAW HERB HERE, AND I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM ALL DAY.
HERB, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
INTERVIEWING A SUSPECT.
HERB. YOU LEAVE THESE POOR PEOPLE ALONE. JUST 'CAUSE THEY'RE A DIFFERENT COLOR DON'T MEAN--
WALT, SHE WAS THERE SEVEN YEARS AGO! AS WAS THAT OTHER SALVATORE! NOW HERE'S ANOTHER ONE, AND THE DEER--
IF YOU MENTION THOSE DEER ONE MORE TIME--
SORRY ABOUT THAT, FOLKS! HERB WAS JUST LEAVING. HAVE A GOOD EVENING! AND DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NEXT NOVEMBER!

I REALLY SHOULD GET GOING.
I KNOW. IT WAS GREAT SEEING YOU.
YOU TOO, AMELIA. I HOPE WE GET TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
ME TOO.
GOODBYE, STEFAN.
GOODBYE, SHEILA.
AND NO MORE SNEAKING AWAY TO ROCK CONCERTS!

"DEAR DIARY, WHAT AN AMAZING DAY!"
WHAT'S GOING ON?
"EVERYONE SHOWED UP FOR THE SIT-IN AND WE SHUT DOWN MAIN STREET!
"CARS PILED UP ON EITHER END AND STARTED HONKING, BUT THEY WERE PAYING ATTENTION!
JOHN'S
"PEOPLE STARTED SHOUTING AT US...
"...SO I DECIDED TO SAY SOMETHING BACK.

"AT FIRST I WAS JUST SHOUTING OVER THEM. BUT THEN...
"...THEY STARTED TO GET QUIET. AND THEN THEY STARTED TO LISTEN.
"I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I SAID EXACTLY, BUT IT WAS EVERYTHING THAT'D BEEN BUILDING UP SINCE THIS SUMMER.
"I REMEMBER STEFAN AND LEXI WERE THERE.
"AND MY MOM.
"THEN THE COPS SHOWED UP.

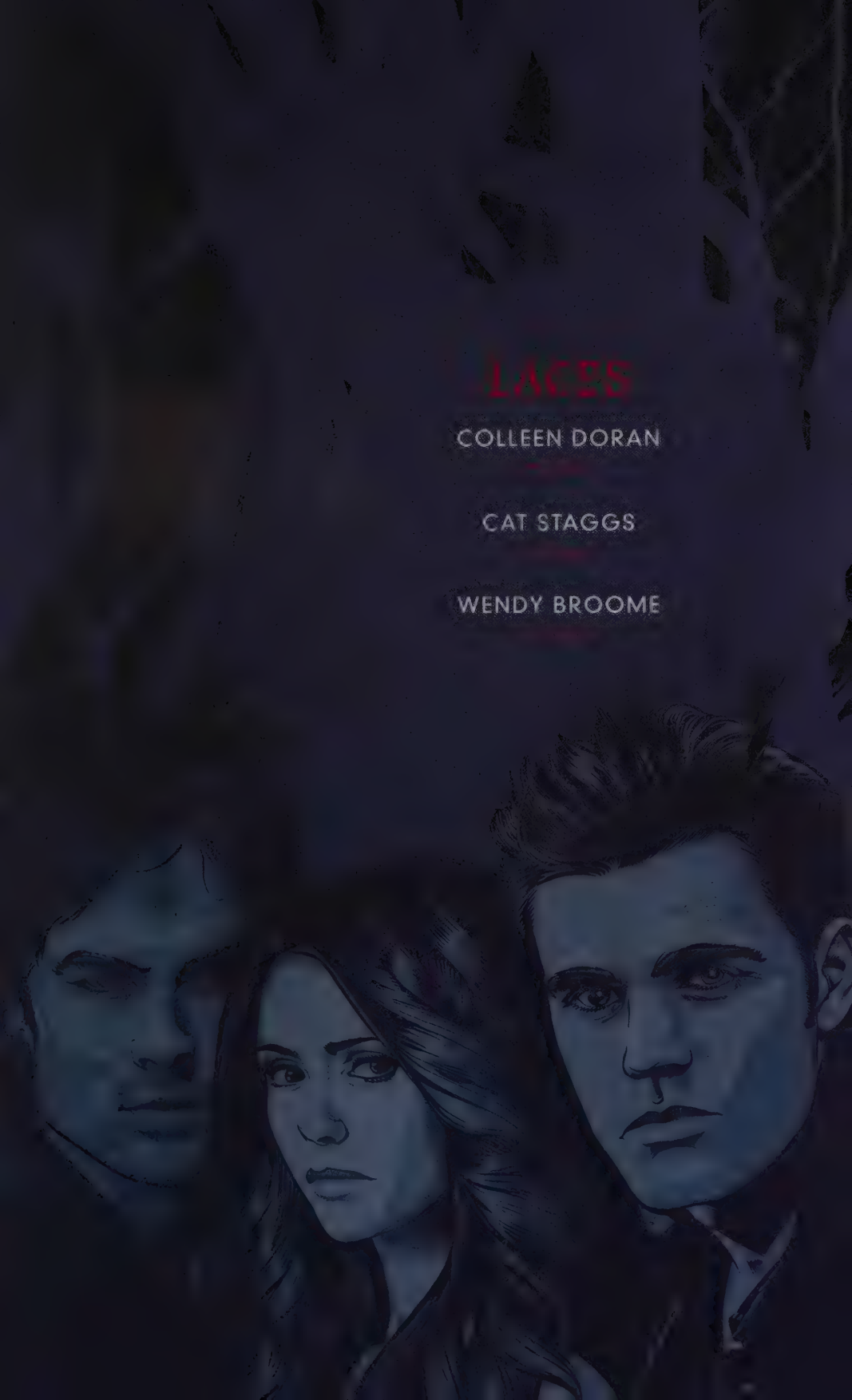
"BUT NO ONE MOVED! THEY ALL STAYED SITTING UNTIL THE POLICE OR THEIR PARENTS DRAGGED THEM AWAY.
"NO ONE ELSE GOT ARRESTED, BUT SHERIFF MORRISON HANDCUFFED ME AND PUT ME IN A POLICE CAR.
"BUT RIGHT AFTER HE DID, STEFAN WENT AND TALKED TO HIM.
"I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SAID...
"...BUT THEY LET ME GO.
"STEFAN DISAPPEARED BEFORE I COULD THANK HIM, THOUGH."
THAT WAS AMAZING, HONEY!
THANKS, MOM!
IT WAS LIKE THEY WERE UNDER A SPELL.
THAT WASN'T A SPELL...
...THAT WAS ALL YOU.
END.

LACES

COLLEEN DORAN

CAT STAGGS

WENDY BROOME



THE VAMPIRE DIARIES Digital Chapters #12-14
Cover by Cat Staggs

MYSTIC FALLS, 1864.
THE JEFFERSON PLANTATION
WHY, MISS JULIE RAWLINS, IF YOU KEEP EATING THOSE LITTLE CAKES, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TIE YOUR LACES!
NOW, KATHERINE, LET'S BE GENEROUS! I HAVE SO MANY BEAUTIFUL LACES MY DADDY BROUGHT ME BACK FROM NEW ORLEANS, THERE'S ENOUGH TO FIT ALL OUR NEEDS!
THE QUESTION IS, WILL THEY FIT JULIE'S WAIST?
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW MY WAIST IS ONLY 26 INCHES!
AND MINE'S NEVER BEEN A FRACTION ABOVE 17!
SMALLEST WAIST IN THE COUNTY!

THERE NOW, JULIE, KATHERINE WAS JUST LETTING YOU KNOW YOU WON'T HAVE ANY ROOM LEFT FOR BARBECUE IF YOU KEEP EATING THOSE SWEETS!
COME HERE AND LET ME MAKE YOU MY PET. YOU CAN PICK ONE OF THESE LOVELIES FOR YOURSELF BEFORE I PUT THEM IN THE CHARITY SALE.
OH, COULD I?
OH, ME, TOO! ANNABELLE, IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE HAD ANYTHING NEW!
YOUR DADDY IS A HERO! HE'S THE ONLY BLOCKADE RUNNER WHO BRINGS US PRETTY THINGS.
OH, COULD I, TOO?
NOW, NOW! WE HAVE TO HAVE SOMETHING LEFT TO AUCTION FOR THE CAUSE!
THIS LACE IS EXQUISITE. I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING THIS FINE SINCE I WAS LAST IN PARIS.
THESE RED LACES ARE SAUCY!
HERE, JULIE, THIS IS PERFECT FOR YOU!
OF COURSE YOU COULD!
I WOULD!
OH, IT'S SO FINE! I COULDN'T, ANNABELLE.

HERE, KATHERINE, THIS IS MUCH MORE YOUR STYLE.
SMALL AND NARROW, LIKE YOUR WAIST.
AREN'T YOU SWEET.
OH, THERE'S LOTS YOU COULD DO WITH THIS DARLING LITTLE PIECE.
DRESS UP A HANDKERCHIEF AND WAVE IT AT ALL THE HANDSOME SOLDIERS AS THEY RIDE BY. WHO COULD RESIST?
WHO, INDEED?
LOOK! THERE'S A SOLDIER COMING UP THE DRIVE RIGHT NOW!
REALLY? WHO IS IT? MY BROTHER HAS A LEAVE COMING...
IS HE HANDSOME?
THERE ARE NO YOUNG MEN LEFT FOR 100 MILES...EVERYONE IS STARTING TO LOOK HANDSOME THESE DAYS!

OH, IT'S DAMON SALVATORE!
BLESS MY SOUL, IF HE ISN'T THE FINEST TRICK IN SHOE LEATHER!
MOVE OVER, I CAN'T SEE!
DON'T BE VULGAR!
DAMON!
OH, NO, HE'S WOUNDED!
A RESCUE! BRING A LITTER FOR THIS BOY!
YOU GIRLS GET OUT OF THE WAY, NOW. GO ALONG.

IS HE HURT BAD, MR. JEFFERSON?
HE'S NOT HURT, HE'S SICK.
OH, SWEET LORD!
THIS LOOKS LIKE CARLET FEVER. I'VE ALREADY HAD IT.
MY DADDY A DOCTOR. I ENDED MANY HIS PATIENTS, OLDIERS FROM THE FIELD.
MARY, TAKE F THESE VILE LOTHES. AND RING ICE--WE D TO LOWER HIS FEVER.
IS HE GOING TO DIE, MISTRESS ANNABELLE?
WE'LL HAVE TO PUT THIS HOUSE UNDER QUARANTINE IF YOU ALL DON'T GET OUT OF HERE!
HE'S NOT GOING TO GET ANY BETTER IF THESE GIRLS KEEP SUCKING ALL THE FRESH AIR OUT OF THIS ROOM, BREATHING IN ALL THE BAD AIR JUST TO SPREAD IT AROUND.

OH, HE'S A WORK OF ART, ISN'T HE?
THAT'S ALL THE LOOK OF HIM WITH A SHIRT OFF YOU'LL EVER SEE!
BOIL THOSE UNDERCLOTHES GOOD, MARY. HE'S GOT NITS.
LADIES! MODESTY! YOUR OWN AND HIS.
LEAVE THE ROOM THIS INSTANT!
ANNABELLE GETS TO STAY!
OHHH...
SHE'S DONE WORK IN THE HOSPITAL AND HAS MORE THAN AN OUNCE OF SENSE. GET ALONG!
HERE'S THAT TUB OF ICE FROM THE CELLAR, MISS ANNABELLE.
THANK YOU, JARVINS. NOW LET ME DO SOME WORK HERE.
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO. I'LL CALL FOR YOU IN A FEW MINUTES.
YES, MISS ANNABELLE.
NOW, MR. SALVATORE, WHERE IS IT?
WHERE IS IT?
COME ON, NOW, I KNOW YOU HAVE IT!

WHERE... WHERE ARE THE...?
...AH.
NOT TOO TERRIBLY CLEVER AFTER ALL, ARE YOU, MR. SALVATORE?
THE PLANS. YOU DIRTY LITTLE SECESSIONIST. HOW GOOD OF YOU TO GET SICK AND DROP THEM AT MY FEET.
SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF SHOOTING YOU.
NOW, YOUNG MR. SALVATORE, WHERE WERE YOU GOING WITH THESE?
DAMON? DAMON, I NEED TO KNOW.
WE HAVE TO DELIVER THESE PLANS. YOU'RE TOO SICK TO RIDE... TELL ME WHERE I NEED TO GO...
UNHH...
DAMON... DAMON, C'MON, HONEY, YOU HAVE TO TELL ME WHERE TO TAKE THE PLANS!

IF HE ISN'T THE FLOWER OF THE SOUTH, MAKE NO MISTAKE!
I ONCE SAW A SCULPTURE FROM GREECE, AND THE TORSO WAS NOT HALF SO FINE AS WHAT I JUST SAW ON THAT DAMON SALVATORE!
I SAW HIS NAKED LIMB. I'LL CARRY THAT VISION WITH ME UNTIL I DIE!
OH, PLEASE!
OUT OF MY WAY. I'M GOING IN!
YOU CAN'T! HE HAS THE FEVER!
THAT'S ALL YOU KNOW!
HER FATHER IS A BLOCKADE RUNNER! HER FATHER IS A DOCTOR! HOW FORTUITOUS!
SCARLET FEVER MY GREAT AUNT MINNIE. YOU THINK SHE CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING?
SHE'S JUST TRYING TO KEEP HIM TO HERSELF.
LET'S HAVE A PEEK, SHALL WE?

GASP
OH MY LORD, HE'S NAKED AS A NEEDLE!

MISS JULIE!
JARVINS, IS THE CARRIAGE READY?
YES, MISS ANNABELLE.
MARY, YOU STAY HERE AND TEND MR. SALVATORE. BOIL THAT UNIFORM IN SOME STRONG LYE SOAP.
JARVINS AND I ARE GOING TO FETCH MY FATHER.
DAMON IS DEATHLY ILL.
OH, NO!
LADIES! LADIES! LEAVE THIS ROOM AT ONCE! THE FEVER!
MY FATHER IS ENCAMPED AT THE MILITARY INSTITUTE IN LEXINGTON... JARVINS WILL SEE ME SAFELY THERE.
BY ALL MEANS, ANNABELLE. YOU RUN RIGHT OFF AND FETCH YOUR DADDY.

FASTER, JARVINS! I MUST GET THE PLANS TO THE CHECKPOINT BEFORE THAT SALVATORE BOY REALIZES THEY'RE MISSING!
WE'LL WEAR OUT THE HORSES, MISS ANNABELLE!
I'D HAVE SLIPPED THAT REBEL A GOOD DOSE OF ARSENIC IF THOSE SILLY GIRLS HADN'T--
WHY, HELLO, ANNABELLE.
THIS ISN'T THE ROAD TO LEXINGTON!
AND YOU'RE NOT WEARING A BONNET. THAT CAN'T BE GOOD FOR YOUR COMPLEXION.
HOA!
EEEEK!
KATHERINE!
HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET OUT HERE?!

MY! YOU USE LANGUAGE LIKE YOU'RE HAILING THE VIKINGS. IT'LL SCARE THE HORSES!
EEEEEEK!
YEAGHH! NO! NO!
AAGHHH!
OH MY GOD!
WHAT ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU?
AREN'T YOU SASSY, WAVING A PISTOL AT ME?!

BLESS YOUR HEART.
≥GUGH...≤
≥GACK...!≤
OH, I'M SO SORRY, DEAR. DID YOU SAY I COULD HAVE THAT PRETTY RED LACE ALL FOR MYSELF?
AREN'T YOU JUST THE MOST PRECIOUS DARLIN'?!
OH, I DO SO LOVE THIS COLOR.
IT MATCHES YOUR EYES.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WELL, MISS ANNABELLE. YOU'RE IN LUCK.
I'LL MAKE THIS QUICK.

CRACK
WHOA, THERE!
AHEAD!
MY GOD.
MY GOD!
THAT'S A YANKEE GUN!
COVER HER LIMBS!
SHE'S GONE, FATHER. THEY BOTH ARE.

A LOVELY FLOWER OF SOUTHERN WOMANHOOD, VIOLATED BY THE VILE HANDS OF A UNION SOLDIER!
THOSE FILTHY YANKEES!
A CRUEL END FOR A BRAVE GIRL!
IF ONLY E'D BEEN A FEW OMENTS SOONER, R. JEFFERSON. I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE UNNING INTO THE WOODS...
THERE WAS NOTHING YOU COULD DO, SON.
I'M GRATEFUL WE ARRIVED BEFORE DAMON... OH, GOD!
MISS KATHERINE SWEARS SHE KNOWS A RIGHT PROPER TREATMENT FOR HIS FEVER.
WISH SHE'D THOUGHT OF IT BEFORE POOR MISS ANNABELLE WENT RUNNING OFF FOR HER FATHER LIKE THAT!
BLESS HER SOUL.
I'VE GOT JUST THE THING FOR WHAT AILS YOU, DAMON.
THAT'S A GOOD BOY. MY LOVELY, LOVELY BOY.
I'M SURE YOU FEEL BETTER ALREADY!

LATER THAT EVENING.
OH, THEY'RE... THEY'RE JUST THE FINEST!
AND THEY'LL LOOK SO MUCH BETTER ON ME THAN ON THAT COW!
ANNABELLE HAD A GOOD OPINION OF HERSELF, DIDN'T SHE?
BUT SHE WASN'T HALF SO PRETTY AS YOU, MISS KATHERINE!
LACE ME UP WITH THAT SAUCY RED RIBBON, EMILY!
I'M GOING TO WEAR RED AROUND MY NECK, AND RED IN MY HAIR, AND RED NEXT TO MY SKIN...AND THEN I'LL PUT MY RED LIPS ON STEFAN.
TWICE AS RED FROM PUTTING THEM ON THAT YOUNG MR. DAMON'S MOUTH, I RECKON!
I'M ONLY DOING MY DUTY AS A DAUGHTER OF THE SOUTH.
I'M GOOD FOR MORALE.
EMILY, THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH.
TOO TIGHT.
OW! DAMMIT, EMILY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING!

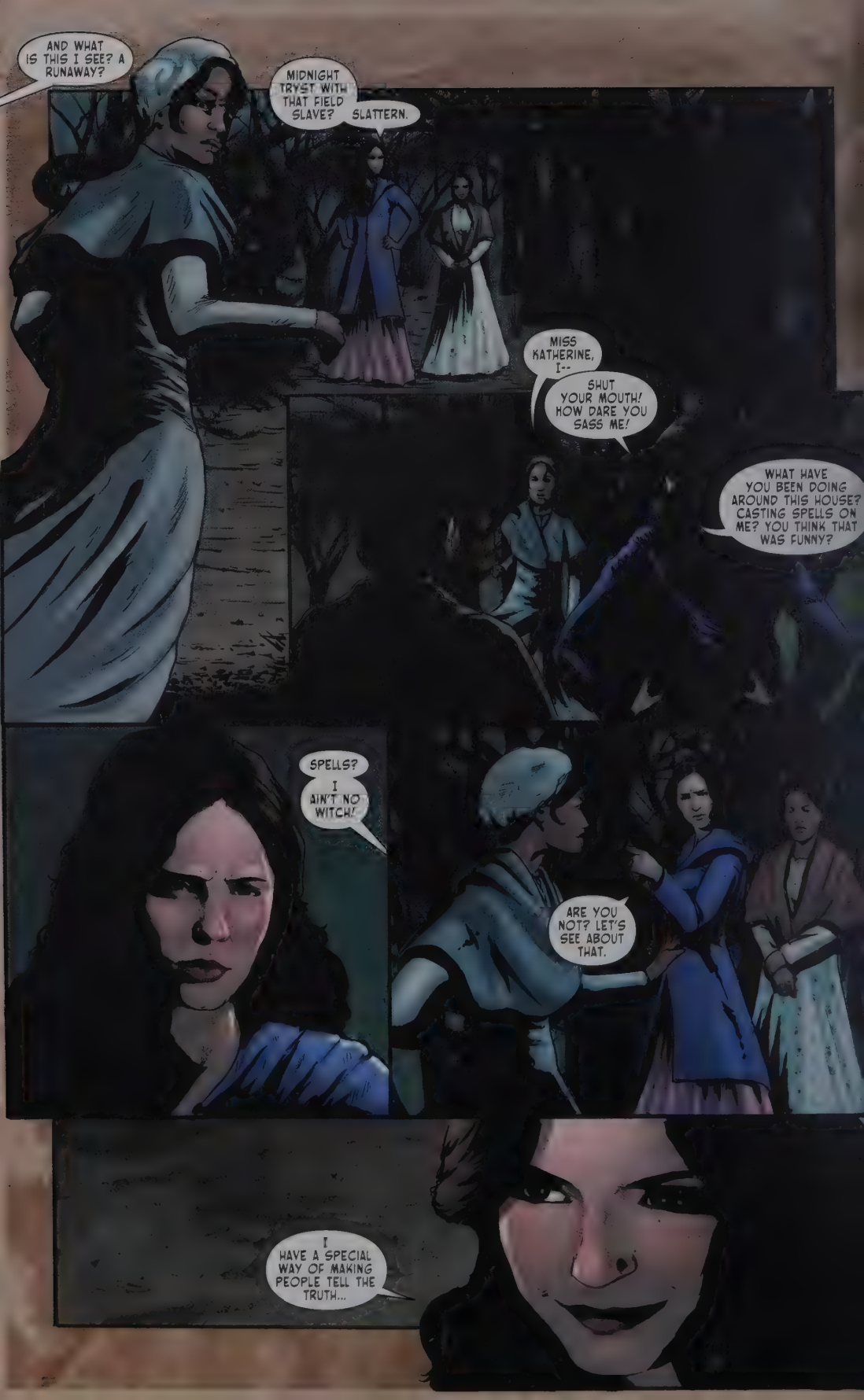
TAKE IT OFF! DAMN YOU, TAKE IT OFF!
KATHERINE, IT'S NOT ME! I CAN'T... I CAN'T!
KATHERINE!
OH, MR. STEFAN!
MISS KATHERINE! SHE'S GONE AND SWOONED!
WELL, GET HER OUT OF THIS CORSET, YOU FOOL!
STEFAN! OH, STEFAN!
WELL... MY RESCUER!
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR THE GENTLE LADY WHO SAVED THE LIFE OF MY BROTHER!
I THOUGHT HE WOULD DIE, KATHERINE. I DON HAVE THE WORD TO THANK YOU.
WE DON'T NEED WORDS.

THE NEXT MORNING
I REALIZED I SAW SOME HERBS IN THE GARDEN THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL. IT'S AN OLD RECIPE...
YOU LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY, BIG BROTHER!
KATHERINE, YOU WORKED A MIRACLE!
WHAT THE HELL?!
OW! OW! OW!
OW!
KATHERINE, WHAT IS IN YOUR HAIR?
THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DAMON, GET BACK IN BED, YOU'RE NOT WELL.

GACK
AGH
KATHERINE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
KATHERINE!!
OH!
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH! WHAT IS GOING ON?
IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, MISS KATHERINE?

MOMENTS LATER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PLAYING AT?
YOU SAY THIS TO ME? YOU, WHO HAVE TAKEN MY MISTRESS'S THINGS?
ARE YOU CALLING ME A THIEF?
I WILL WHIP THE HIDE OFF YOU!
YOU HAVE MISS ANNABELLE'S THINGS, AND YOU WILL HAVE NO JOY IN THEM UNTIL YOU RETURN THEM!
HER SPIRIT IS HAUNTING YOU! AND THAT IS WHAT YOU DESERVE!
OH, REALLY?
DO YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT A BUNCH OF CARNIVAL-RIBBON TRASH? TAKE THE FRIPPERIES, YOU HOYDEN!
PLASTER THEM ALL OVER YOU. I'M SURE SOME FINE FIELD HAND WILL GIVE YOU A TUMBLE IN THE DIRT FOR YOUR PAINS!
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD SUCH IMPUDENCE?
WHO MADE THAT FOUL-MOUTHED SLATTERN A LADY'S SLAVE?

LATER THAT NIGHT.
WELL, MARY WITH THE IMPERTINENT MOUTH.
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
MISS KATHERINE! SUPPER'S ON THE TABLE!
THANK YOU, JULIE! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
PSST! MISS MARY!
OH, IT'S YOU. ABOUT SCARED THE LIVER AND LIFE OUT OF ME!
WE WAS WORRIED FOR YOU, MISS MARY! HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MISS ANNABELLE...
THOUGHT GRAYBACKS GOT HER, BUT NO. SHE STILL HAD THE PAPERS. HERE THEY ARE.
THAT SALVATORE BOY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THEY'RE MISSING.
PRAISE TO JESUS.
HERE, TRADE 'EM FOR THESE FAKE ORDERS. THEY'LL HAVE JOHNNY REB CHASING HIS OWN ASS FOR WEEKS.
ER... PARDON MY LANGUAGE, MA'AM.
I GOT WORDS OF MY OWN FOR JOHNNY REB, MAKE NO MISTAKE!


AND WHAT IS THIS I SEE? A RUNAWAY?
MIDNIGHT TRYST WITH THAT FIELD SLAVE?
SLATTERN.
MISS KATHERINE, I--
SHUT YOUR MOUTH! HOW DARE YOU SASS ME!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING AROUND THIS HOUSE? CASTING SPELLS ON ME? YOU THINK THAT WAS FUNNY?
SPELLS? I AIN'T NO WITCH!
ARE YOU NOT? LET'S SEE ABOUT THAT.
I HAVE A SPECIAL WAY OF MAKING PEOPLE TELL THE TRUTH...

I THINK I KNOW, KATHERINE.
I SAW...I SAW HER.
SHE HAS SOME PAPERS THAT BELONG TO MR. DAMON.
WHEN SHE WENT TO WASH HIS CLOTHES...
...I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE, CERTAIN, BUT...I THINK I SAW HER PUT SOMETHING IN HER BODICE BEFORE SHE LEFT THE HOUSE.
NO!
YOU WICKED GIRL!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING WITH MY SWEET DAMON?

AIEEEEEEE!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
UGH...
...AGH
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE?

WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT. I WAS HOPING THESE WERE LOVE LETTERS OR SOMETHING. ADD A LITTLE SPICE TO THE LIFE OF LOVELY, INNOCENT DAMON.
HE'S AS DEVOTED AS A DOG.
WHAT ARE THEY?
CONFEDERATE ARMY DISPATCHES.
BORING.
WHAT TROOPS ARE SUPPOSED TO GO WHERE.
I SUPPOSE THESE WOULD BE WORTH A LOT OF MONEY TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE...
I RECKON THEY WOULD.

BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS I LIKE EVEN BETTER THAN MONEY.
DAMON IS AS SWEET AS A SUGAR DROP, AND I'LL GET A LOT OF SUGAR FOR RETURNING THESE!
YOU BE A GOOD GIRL AND GET RID OF THAT BODY FOR ME, EMILY.
YES, MISS KATHERINE.

DID I HEAR A SCREAM OUTSIDE? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
OH, YOU KNOW I'M TERRIFIED OF SPIDERS.
HERE.
FOR YOU, DAMON.
THANK GOD! KATHERINE, I THOUGHT I'D LOST THEM! WHERE WERE THEY?
OH, EMILY FOUND THEM IN YOUR CLOTHES WHEN SHE TOOK THEM FOR A WASH.
ARE THEY IMPORTANT?
THEY'LL SAVE THE CONFEDERACY!
I SHOULDN'T TELL YOU, BUT...
THEN DON'T TELL ME. THE CAUSE IS TOO IMPORTANT. I RESPECT YOUR NOBLE DEVOTION.
I...I HAVE TO...TO GET THESE DISPATCHES TO RICHMOND...

OH, DAMON. TONIGHT?
YOU'RE STILL SO WEAK, AND IT'S DARK AND DANGEROUS.
BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO STAND BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR DUTY.
...MY DUTY...

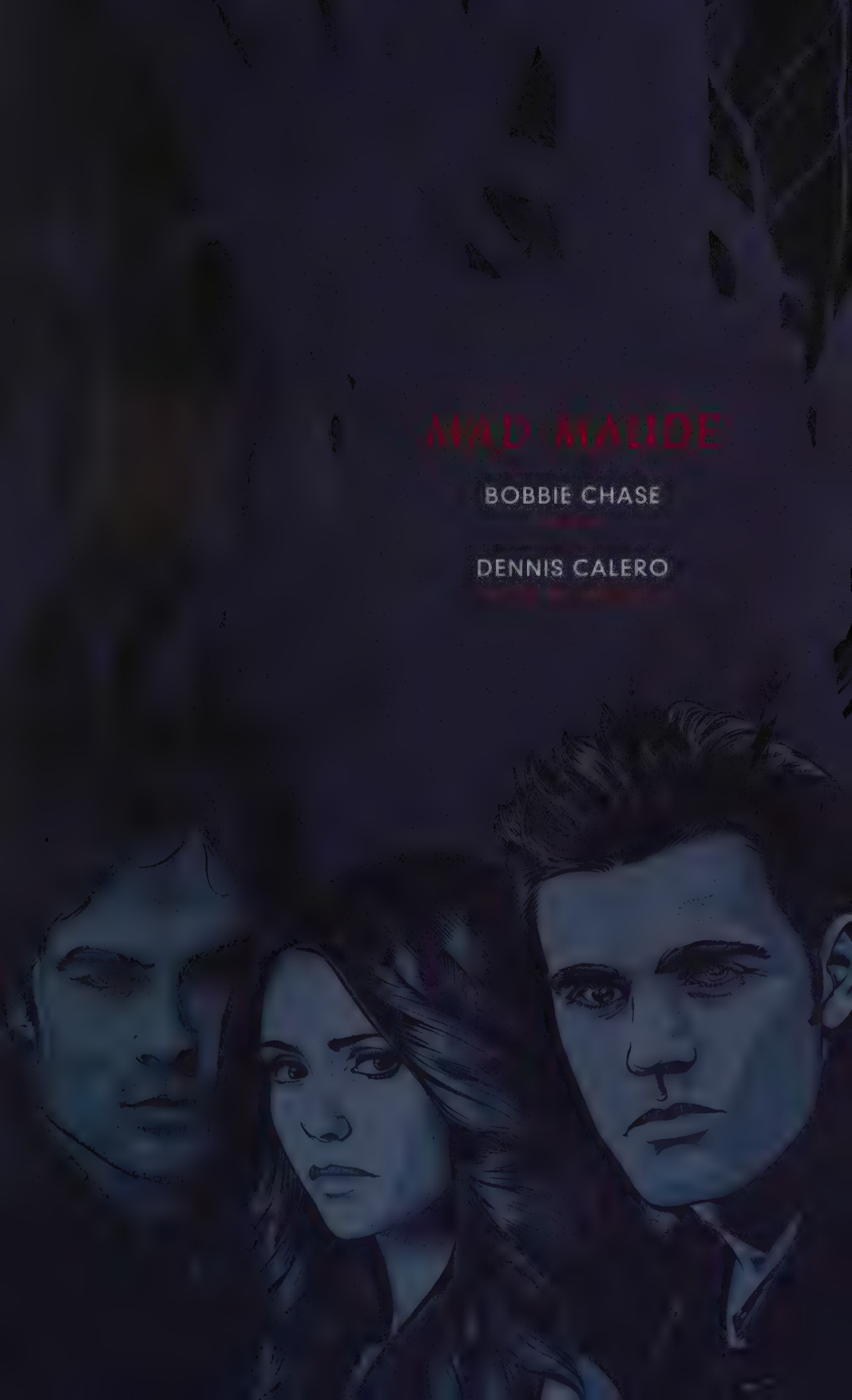
HOW'S DAMON?
OH, HE'S FEELING MUCH BETTER.
YES, INDEED.
YOU SAVED MY BROTHER'S LIFE.
I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO THANK YOU ENOUGH.
I CAN THINK OF *SOMETHING* YOU CAN DO TO THANK ME RIGHT NOW.
WHAT WITH MY FAINTING SPELLS AND DELICATE HEALTH, NICE MR. JEFFERSON HAS GIVEN ME A GUEST ROOM ALL TO MYSELF.
SOMEONE WILL HEAR US...
OH, STEFAN, YOU'RE SO NAIVE.
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY COUPLE MAKING TRYSTING PLANS IN THE HALLWAY BY CANDLELIGHT.

I'M SORRY, MARY. SO SORRY.
THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE I COULD DO.
SHE'D FORCE YOU TO TALK. FIND OUT YOU WERE A UNION SPY. FORCE YOU TO TELL EVERYTHING...
MISS KATHERINE, I LOVE HER. SHE'S MY DEAR FRIEND.
AND YOU WERE, TOO.
BUT KATHERINE DOESN'T CARE WHO WINS THIS WAR.
I DO. I HAVE TO.
I DIDN'T THINK KATHERINE WOULD GO AFTER ANNABELLE LIKE THAT.
JUST FOR A BIT OF RED RIBBON!
I CAST THOSE SPELLS ON KATHERINE TO HELP YOU GET THOSE PAPERS BACK.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD SCARE HER OFF YOU, TOO.
BUT... WELL.
I DID WHAT I THOUGHT WAS RIGHT.
YOU DIED A VALIANT SOLDIER, MISS MARY.
A VALIANT SOLDIER, INDEED.
The End

MAD MAUDE

BOBBIE CHASE

DENNIS CALERO

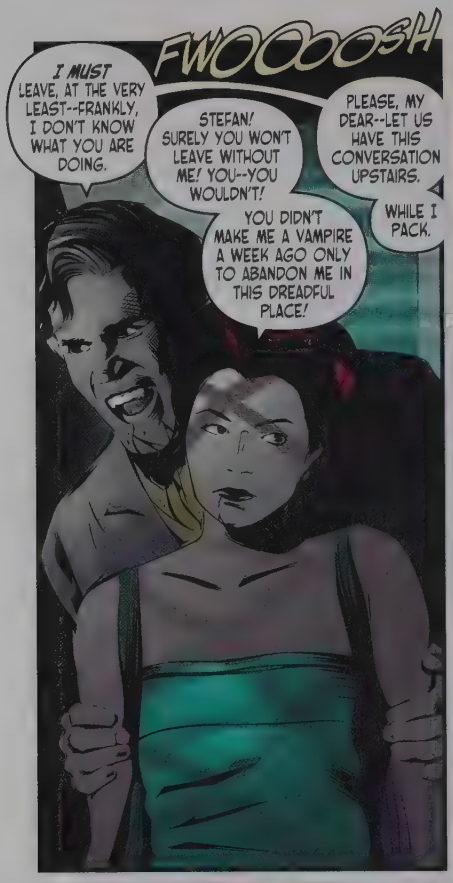


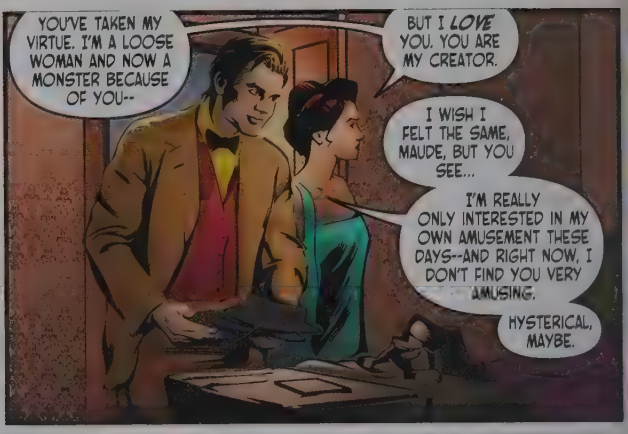
CROMPTON BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA, TODAY.
SKREE
SKREE
C'MON, GUYS--ALMOST DONE FOR THE DAY.
FINISH UP--INSPECTOR'S COMING IN THE MORNING.
JOE! WE HIT SOMETHING--
WHOA!
OH, GREAT--A CAVE. JUST WHAT WE NEED.
15 MINUTES LATER...
OKAY, I GOTTA FIND OUT IF WE'RE GONNA HAVE OURSELVES MORE WORK OR LESS.
IF IT'S A CAVE, EITHER WE'LL BE SAVING A WHOLE LOT OF BLASTING OR--
WE GOT A REAL PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS?
YOU SAID IT. OKAY, LOWER AWAY!
CLIK
I'M DOWN!
IT'S NOT THAT DEEP--MAYBE NINE FEET HERE.
SOLID FLOOR. I'M EXPLORING!
SOMETHING DOWN HERE--DEAD. LOOKS LIKE A WOMAN'S SKELETON.
CHECKING IT OUT.
NOPE, IT'S NOT A SKELET--
HEY--IT GRABBED-
AAAAARGHLLLL!
JOE? COME IN...
JOE?
JOE?

STEF-STU-STEFAN.
STEFAN SALVATORE.

THE BREAKERS HOTEL, CROMPTON BEACH, 1913.

DRAT, THEY'RE ALL EMPTY. NOT A DROP LEFT FOR EITHER OF US, MY DEAR MAUDE.
WHAT A MESS. WE MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE BEFORE WE ARE CAUGHT, STEFAN DEAREST.


FWOOOOSH
I MUST LEAVE, AT THE VERY LEAST--FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING.
STEFAN! SURELY YOU WON'T LEAVE WITHOUT ME! YOU--YOU WOULDN'T!
PLEASE, MY DEAR--LET US HAVE THIS CONVERSATION UPSTAIRS.
WHILE I PACK.
YOU DIDN'T MAKE ME A VAMPIRE A WEEK AGO ONLY TO ABANDON ME IN THIS DREADFUL PLACE!


YOU'VE TAKEN MY VIRTUE. I'M A LOOSE WOMAN AND NOW A MONSTER BECAUSE OF YOU--
BUT I LOVE YOU. YOU ARE MY CREATOR.
I WISH I FELT THE SAME, MAUDE, BUT YOU SEE...
I'M REALLY ONLY INTERESTED IN MY OWN AMUSEMENT THESE DAYS--AND RIGHT NOW, I DON'T FIND YOU VERY AMUSING.
HYSTERICAL, MAYBE.

IT'S BECAUSE OF HER, ISN'T IT? KATHERINE?
SHE IS THE REASON YOU WOULD LEAVE ME!

YOU'RE TIRESOME, MAUDE.
I KNOW IT WAS SELFISH OF ME TO WANT A PLAYTHING.
BUT REALLY, IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE GOING TO BE THIS CLINGING, I WOULD HAVE JUST DRAINED YOU LIKE THE REST AND MOVED ON.
OH... STEFAN.

STILL, YOU ARE A PRETTY THING.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT--LET US GO FOR A NICE WALK.
OH, THANK YOU, STEFAN!

A SHORT TIME LATER...
AND TOMORROW, WHY DON'T WE GO OUT FOR ICES? IT SHOULD BE A HOT DAY.
YOU PROMISED THAT YOU WOULD TAKE ME...
MMHMMMM...
STEFAN, DEAR--WE'VE BEEN WALKING SO LONG AND THIS IS HARD ON MY SHOES. MIGHT WE TURN AROUND NOW?
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER, MAUDE--I'M ENJOYING THE VIEW.
BUT IT'S ALMOST MORNING--I DON'T HAVE A DAYLIGHT RING LIKE YOURS, REMEMBER.
I'LL HAVE YOU INSIDE BY THEN.
NO, NOT IN HERE--I DON'T LIKE ENCLOSED SPACES.
BUT THIS IS AN ADVENTURE, MAUDE.
YOU'RE RIGHT--TIME TO GO.
STEFAN, WAIT, THE SUN! I CAN'T GO WITH YOU--COME BACK INSIDE!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO STAY, MAUDE--AND TODAY, I SUIT MYSELF.
YOU BE A GOOD GIRL AND ENJOY THE LOVELY CAVE.
AND PERHAPS WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY.
DON'T LEAVE--AAARGH! IT BURNS!
"SO I WANDERED DEEP INTO THE CAVE TO GET AWAY FROM THE LIGHT, GOING DEEPER AND DEEPER IN. AND GETTING MORE AND MORE LOST.
"AND THEN, AFTER MANY HOURS, THE CAVE ROOF COLLAPSED AND I WAS BURIED IN ROCK...

AND THAT WAS THE LAST THING I REMEMBER BEFORE THAT NICE MAN GAVE ME A DRINK TONIGHT IN THE CAVE WHEN I AWOKE.
AND NOW YOU ARE SERVING ME, YOU SWEET THING.
I AM SERVING YOU.
I LIKE YOU MODERN WOMEN--
DOING A MAN'S JOB SO THAT IF YOUR MAN LEAVES YOU THE WAY MINE DID, YOU WON'T BE IN SUCH A WRETCHED, WRETCHED POSITION. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YES.
AND YOU'LL TAKE ME HOME WITH YOU--WHERE IS HOME?
YES-- UPSTAIRS.

HOW CONVENIENT-- LET'S GO.

OH, I FEEL SOOO MUCH BETTER. DON'T I LOOK BETTER?
IT'S SUCH AN ODD STYLE, BUT IT IS QUITE COMFORTABLE. PERHAPS THE SHOES ARE A BIT DIFFICULT.
DO YOU THINK STEFAN WILL LIKE HOW I LOOK?
I DO WANT OUR REUNION TO BE PERFECT. AND IF HE HAS THAT HORRIBLE KATHERINE WITH HIM, MY SATISFACTION WILL BE COMPLETE.
OR AT LEAST IT WILL BE--ONCE I RIP THEIR HEADS OFF.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE HOSPITALITY, DEAR.
REST IN PEACE!
MY, MY--MOTOR CARS HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE MODEL T.
HEY, GORGEOUS--CAN I BUY YOU A DRINK?
NAH, I'M GOING INTO THE BAR NOW.
NO, BUT YOU MAY GIVE A LIFT.
NO, YOU'RE GIVING ME A LIFT.
YES--A LIFT.
WHERE TO?
MYSTIC FALLS--VIRGINIA. TAKE ME TO MYSTIC FALLS.

I JUST LOVE COLLEGE GIRLS.
THE SALVATORE HOUSE, MYSTIC FALLS, VIRGINIA
YOU'D BETTER LOVE JUST THIS COLLEGE GIRL, DAMON.
MMMM... OKAY. IF YOU SAY SO.
DING-DONG!
DAMMIT, ELENA--THIS PLACE IS LIKE GRAND CENTRAL STATION WHEN YOU'RE HOME FROM COLLEGE.
DOESN'T ANYONE BELIEVE IN TEXTING ANYMORE?
I'M NOT EXPECTING ANYONE!
SECONDS LATER.
WHAT IS IT? OH, HELLO.
HELLO! WHY, YOU MUST BE DAMON--STEFAN'S BROTHER!
I AM--AND YOU ARE?
I'M MAUDE--A VERRRRY OLD FRIEND OF STEFAN'S.
IS HE HOME? MAY I COME IN?
NO, AND NOT QUITE YET, LADY.
I CAN SEE YOU'RE A VERY ATTRACTIVE WOMAN--JUST STEFAN'S TYPE, IN FACT--BUT...
A, THAT STILL DOESN'T GET A VAMPIRE ENTRY INTO MY HOUSE, AND B, I'VE NEVER HEARD STEFAN MENTION YOU.
NOW--PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
DAMON, WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG? OH, HELLO.
YOU! I--I MUST GO.
HEY, WAIT!
WEIRDO.

JUST THEN, ACROSS TOWN AT MYSTIC GRILL...
HAHA. YOU'RE SO FUNNY, CORY.
I'D BE FUNNIER BACK AT MY PLACE. READY TO GO, GORGEOUS?
NO, I'M GOING BACK TO MY PLACE--
SURE!
ALONE-- YOU'RE NOT COMING.
A FEW MINUTES LATER
PHEW!
I SEEM TO BE HAVING NORMAL MORTAL CAN'T-HOLD-MY-LIQUOR-AS-WELL-AS-MY-VAMPIRE-SELF-USED-TO PROBLEMS, TOO.
UGH! I HATE THIS.
GET LOST.
YOU--I BOUGHT YOU DRINKS ALL NIGHT, YOU DAMN--
HAVING MEN PROBLEMS LIKE A NORMAL GIRL, KATHERINE? POOR YOU.
SHUT UP, MATT.
HERE, KATHERINE-- LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME HELP.
HEY! I TOLD YOU TO GET LOST.
GUESS I'M NOT GOOD AT LISTENING TO LITTLE GIRLS LIKE YOU.
YOU'RE NOW GOING TO LET GO OF MY ARMS, AND GO BACK TO YOUR OWN CAR.
OH, YEAH? ARE YOU GONNA MAKE ME?
DUH! I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!

FWOOoosh
HEY! TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME, DUDE!
DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU FORGOT YOU CAN'T COMPEL ANYBODY ANYMORE, KATHERINE?
I DID--I FORGOT, OKAY? SUE ME!
NOT THAT I CARE, BUT NEED I REMIND YOU THAT YOU CAN GET HURT PRETTY BADLY IF YOU KEEP PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS?
WHAT CAN I SAY? DANGEROUS SITUATIONS SEEM TO FIND ME NO MATTER WHAT I DO.
GURGLE
THAT HURTS, MAN-- PLEASE. PLEASE, STOPPPP.
OH. SHUT. UP.
KRCK
STILL PROTECTING ME, HUH, DAMON? FEELING ALL CHIVALROUS TOWARDS YOUR FIRST LOVE?
OR JUST BORED BECAUSE ELENA'S AWAY AT COLLEGE?
NOPE. NEITHER. I'M OUT LOOKING FOR A VAMP--
OH, NEVER MIND.
ELENA HAPPENS TO BE HOME.
AND IT'S JUST LUCKY FOR YOU I FOUND THAT GUY MORE ANNOYING AND WHINY THAN I FIND YOU.

HATEVER.
CAN'T WRAP ANYBODY AROUND MY LITTLE FINGER. CAN'T KILL ANYBODY.
CAN'T COMPEL ANYBODY--BEING HUMAN SUCKS.
KATHERINE PIERCE--IS HUMAN?
THIS IS BETTER THAN I EXPECTED!
WHAT? NO.
DO I KNOW YOU?
YOU JUST SAW ME AT THE HOUSE...
HUH? I WASN'T--
BUT LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF A LITTLE BETTER.
AAAAAAUGH!
MY NAME IS MAUDE, AND I HAVE A PRESENT--FOR STEFAN!
HELP! DAMON! HELP... ME!
IN HIS HONOR, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE SOME FUN!

MYSTIC FALLS, VIRGINIA. OUTSIDE THE MYSTIC GRILL.
OHHH. THAT REALLY HURT.
IN THE OLD DAYS, I'D HAVE FOUND THIS AS EXCITING AS THE NEXT GIRL...
...BUT NOW IT'S JUST SAAAGHE TIRESOME.
THIS IS SOOO INTERESTING-- KATHERINE PIERCE IS HUMAN.
I'VE SPENT A CENTURY THINKING ABOUT HOW I WOULD KILL VAMPIRES-- STEFAN AND YOU-- SO HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?
WELL--
WAIT, HOLD THE THOUGHT--
--WHILE I TAKE US SOMEWHERE A BIT MORE PRIVATE, WHERE WE CAN SPEAK.
SOOFE THE FELLS CHURCH RUINS? ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
I HATE THIS PLACE.
I DISCOVERED THIS EARLIER IN THE EVENING WHEN I WAS EXPLORING THE TOWN. IT SEEMS THE PERFECT SPOT FOR YOU TO EXPLAIN...
...WHY MY SIRE, STEFAN SALVATORE, TOLD ME LONG AGO THAT YOU WERE A VAMPIRE--
--YET YOU ARE NOT?
WELL, I WAS A VAMP--URGH, WATCH THE TRACHEA, PLEASE...
...BUT THEN I HAD AN... ACCIDENT.
I ALSO HAD THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT YOU WERE A VAMPIRE WHEN I SAW YOU EARLIER TONIGHT--AH, WELL.
WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
EARLIER? I DIDN'T SEE YOU--OHHHH.

WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING-- IT'S, AH, NOT SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?
MY NAME IS MAUDE KILBOURNE...
...AND FINALLY-- AFTER ONE HUNDRED YEARS--ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BEING TRAPPED BY STEFAN-- I AM HERE TO REPAY HIM.
BY KILLING THE ONE HE LOVES.
WAIT! ARGH! NO! STEFAN HASN'T LOVED ME FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS--
HE WON'T CARE!
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, IT MATTERS LITTLE TO ME. WHETHER YOU ARE MY REVENGE OR MY MEAL--
--I'LL STILL BE SATISFIED.
HE BROKE MY HEART, AND I THINK IT ONLY FAIR THAT I RIP YOURS OUT.
CRCK!
=GASP=
DAMON!
HERE YOU ARE.
HOW IS IT I MANAGE TO GET STUCK RESCUING THE LAST PERSON I WANT TO RESCUE-- OVER AND OVER AGAIN?
C'MON.
I DON'T WANT TO DESTROY HER QUITE YET, SO LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE SHE UN-DIES.

NEXT MORNING AT THE SALVATORE HOME...
EXPLAIN TO ME WHY THIS HOUSE HAS TO BE KATHERINE'S SANCTUARY, DAMON?
DO YOU REALLY THINK I WANT TO BE HERE, ELENA?
HATE TO SAY IT BECAUSE I LOATHE HER, BUT I SEEM TO HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR WOMEN WHO ARE DOPPELGANGERS OF THE ONE I LOVE.
OH, THAT'S SO SWEET.
UGH, PLEASE.
TO DISTRACT YOU TWO--MAUDE SAID A FEW INTERESTING THINGS WHILE SHE WAS BEATING ME TO A PULP.
WELL, CLEARLY HE THOUGHT BETTER OF HAVING HER RUNNING AROUND LOOSE, SINCE HE TRAPPED HER. IF SHE WASN'T CRAZY BEFORE, THAT WOULD HAVE DONE IT.
I FEEL KIND OF BAD FOR HER, ACTUALLY.
SHE SAID STEFAN TRAPPED HER EXACTLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, AND THAT STEFAN WAS HER CREATOR.
HUH--THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN AROUND 1913, 1914--DURING MY BROTHER'S BIGGEST RIPPER PHASE.
MAKES SENSE--ALTHOUGH WHY HE'D TURN THAT CUCKOO CLOCK INTO A VAMPIRE BEATS ME.
HELLO--WOUNDED, HERE?

YOU MAY BE ONE OF MY ONLY LIVING RELATIVES, KATHERINE...
WATCH--THE--B-BRUISES.
...BUT DO YOU *REALLY* THINK I GIVE A DAMN WHETHER YOU'RE WOUNDED OR NOT? MY INTEREST DOESN'T EXTEND TO HELPING MY BROTHER'S *MURDERER*, AND NEED I MENTION HOW YOU TRIED TO KILL ME TOO?
MY PRIORITIES ARE SELF-PRESERVATION, HELPING STEFAN, AND KEEPING YOU ALIVE. IN *THAT* ORDER.
HELPING YOU, AS USUAL, KATHERINE, IS JUST AN UNFORTUNATE SIDE EFFECT.
AND WITH STEFAN GONE, WE'RE STUCK WITH CLEANING UP HIS MESS.
SO, ELENA--YOU STAKE CRAY-CRAY MAUDE, AND I'LL RIP HER HEART OUT.
NO... *NO,* I HAVE SOMETHING SNEAKIER IN MIND...
KEEP TALKING--I LIKE SNEAKY.
...AND MORE HUMANE.
UGH. WHAT A WASTE.
IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS WORK, THOUGH--KATHERINE AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER.
=SIGH=
A PACT WITH MISS GOODIE-GOODIE.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE MUCH CHOICE AT THE MOMENT, DO I?
NOT REALLY, IF YOU EVER WANT TO GO OUTSIDE AT NIGHT AGAIN WITHOUT GETTING RIPPED APART.

NEXT NIGHT.
THANKS FOR SLUMMING WITH ME, DAMON. YOU'RE ACTUALLY FUN WHEN YOUR WET BLANKET GIRLFRIEND IS OUT OF TOWN.
PAYBACK'S A BITCH, ISN'T IT, KATHERINE?
IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO MY SERIOUS INJURIES, MATT, IT WASN'T MY FAULT THIS TIME.
THIS IS THE RESULT OF A COMPLETELY UNPROVOKED ATTACK.
REALLY? I JUST ASSUMED YOU WERE SLASHED BY SOMEONE IN YOUR LONG LINE OF CENTURIES-OLD ENEMIES.
BUS BOY-- SEND OVER A REAL WAITER, PLEASE. I'D LIKE A DRINK.
WHATEVER.
OOPS-- IT'S NIGHTTIME-- BETTER GET YOU HOME, FAST.
I'M JUST GOING TO USE THE LITTLE BOYS' ROOM--BRB.
HEY-- OW!

MOMENTS LATER IN THE CEMETERY
FWOOOSH!
DON'T HURT ME! I TOLD YOU, STEFAN DOESN'T EVEN LOVE ME ANYMORE!
AND BESIDES, I'M NOT KATHERINE!
WHOA--THAT BARELY SLOWED YOU DOWN. YOU'RE TOUGH, CRAZY LADY!
I COULD SMELL THAT YOU WEREN'T KATHERINE, AND THAT YOU WEREN'T HUMAN, EITHER.
I WAS COUNTING ON YOU BEING A WHOLE LOT CRAZIER--YOU KNOW, EASY TO FOOL.
AAARGH!
OH, I KNEW I WAS BEING TRICKED. I WAS HOPING TO DRAW OUT THE REAL KATHERINE.
WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT ARE YOU TO KATHERINE--HER TWIN? I THOUGHT SHE WAS ONE OF A KIND.
OR WAS IT STEFAN WHO WAS MISTAKEN?
NO, SHE USED TO BE ONE OF A KIND. I'M HER DOPPELGANGER--ELENA.
OOOF!
YOU'RE STRONG. FINALLY, THE VAMPIRE FIGHT I'D HOPED FOR!
YOU WANT A FIGHT? BRING IT!

RRRRAGH!
AAAAGH!
I THOUGHT A HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD VAMPIRE WOULD BE STRONGER.
THERE WERE NO...HUMANS...IN MY CAVE...
I HAD TO...TO RELY ON...ON OTHER ANIMALS FOR FOOD.
I THOUGHT THE...THE LAST FEW DAYS WOULD MAKE UP FOR THAT.
GUESS I'M NOT TOO LATE TO SAVE THE GIRL.
KRAK!
WHO SAID--WHEW--THAT I NEEDED SAVING?

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
I'VE BEEN LISTENING.
IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO FIND OUT NEW THINGS ABOUT MY DEAR BROTHER'S FORMER LIFE. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT WILL BE USEFUL.
NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND...
...I'M GOING TO RIP HER HEART OUT.
DAMON, NO!
I DO MIND!
ELENA, I LOVE YOU--BUT SOMETIMES YOU TAKE ALL THE FUN OUT OF IMMORTALITY.
MY PLAN'S WORKED SO FAR. I JUST WANT TO SEE THIS TO THE END, MY WAY.
OKAY, BUT IF IT DOESN'T WORK...
...PLAN B IS GONNA BE MY WAY.
I HAVE TO INVITE HER INTO MY HOUSE?
LET'S GET HER HOME.

HOURS LATER...
WAS THE STAKE REALLY NECESSARY?
SHE'S IN MY HOUSE, ELENA, SO...YES.
OKAY, TIME TO WAKE HER UP.
SSSHUCK!
COME ON, CRAZY LADY--WAKEY, WAKEY.
I HOPE YOU'LL KEEP THE ROPES ON SO I CAN TORTURE HER.
NO MORE TORTURE, KATHERINE.
YOUR INVOLVEMENT HERE IS ALMOST OVER.
SHGHHHHH!E
WHAT HAPPENED?!
OKAY, DAMON--TIME TO COMPEL HER.
WHAT? NO!
YOU CAN'T COMPEL ME--I'M TOO STRONG!
SAYS THE WOMAN WHO'S BEEN LIVING ON RODENTS FOR THE PAST CENTURY.
LISTEN, MAUDE, I'M OLDER THAN YOU, AND I HAVE A BETTER DIET.
YOU--BATS AND MICE. ME--HUMANS. SEE? NO CONTEST.
OKAY, TELL HER SHE'S NOT MAD AT STEFAN. OR KATHERINE.
SHUT UP, KATHERINE.
THANK Y--
HEY!
YOU'RE NO LONGER ANGRY. STEFAN WAS YOUR FRIEND. HE LOVED KATHERINE, SO YOU... TOLERATE HER.

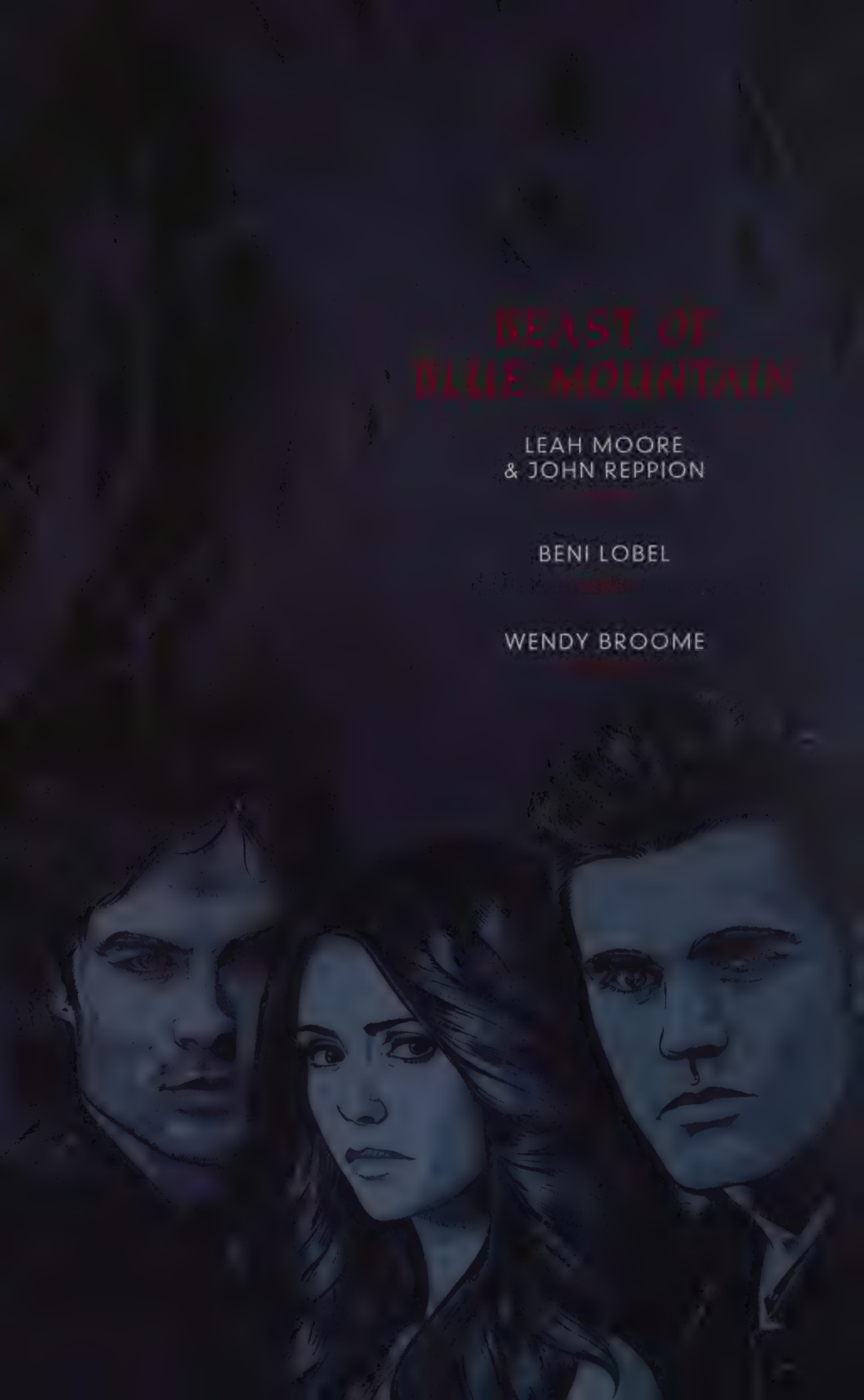
E NEXT DAY
SO, LESSON ONE--HOW TO EAT RESPONSIBLY.
YOU SAY HOSPITALS STORE THESE BAGS OF HUMAN BLOOD? FASCINATING!
THIS ISN'T BAD--BETTER THAN BATS, ANYWAY. I SUPPOSE I'LL GET USED TO IT.
I'LL HELP YOU WITH EVERYTHING ELSE, TOO--HOW TO BE A GOOD VAMPIRE, WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING ALL THESE YEARS.
YOU'LL BE FINE, MAUDE.
SO, TELL ME WHAT YOU REMEMBER.
WELL, THAT STEFAN WAS MY FRIEND--
FRIENDS ARE HIGHLY OVERRATED.
KATHERINE, I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE. AND NOW I'M TEACHING THIS VAMPIRE HOW NOT TO KILL YOU.
GRRRRR!
AND YOU'RE STILL THE LYING MANIPULATIVE BITCH WHO KILLED MY BROTHER.
OOF!
OH, GOOD, JEREMY--I SEE THINGS ARE BACK TO NORMAL.
KRCK!
MY SISTER AND HER HUNDREDS-OF-YEARS-OLD DOPPELGANGER ARE FEUDING AGAIN, AND YOU CALL IT NORMAL...
...OKAY, IF YOU SAY SO.
END.

BEAST OF BLUE MOUNTAIN

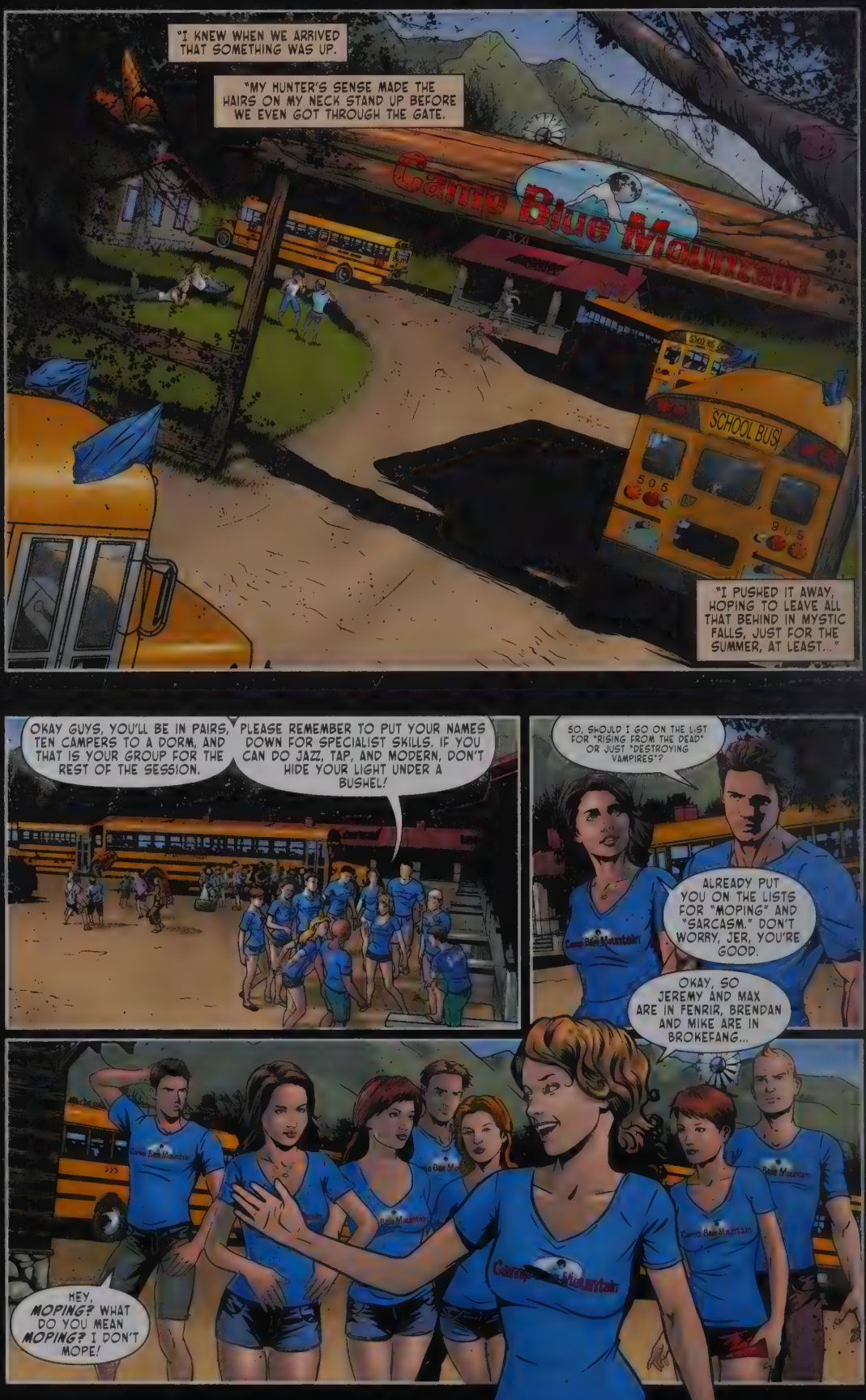
LEAH MOORE
& JOHN REPPION

BENI LOBEL

WENDY BROOME



NOODLES... TINNED HAM... AM I RIGHT IN THINKING YOU LIVE ALONE, SON?
NOT EXACTLY, BUT MY, UH, ROOMMATES EAT OUT A LOT...
WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME? DO I JUST ATTRACT WEIRD OLD LADIES OR SOMETHING?
JER? OH, I'M SO GLAD I RAN INTO YOU!
APRIL, HEY, WHAT'S UP? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A--
DON'T! I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING. IT'S ABOUT LAST SUMMER.
I FOUND A MINI SD IN THE BOTTOM OF MY LUGGAGE, IT HAS ALL MY PICTURES FROM CAMP ON IT.
ONE OF THEM... OH, WHERE IS IT NOW...?
WAS JUST FLICKING THROUGH THEM, AND THINKING WE SHOULD DO IT AGAIN NEXT SUMMER.
AND THEN I SAW HER.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN, JER?
WHAT COULD BONNIE HAVE BEEN DOING THERE?
JUMP IN, I'LL DRIVE YOU HOME.
AND ON THE WAY, I'LL TRY AND EXPLAIN.

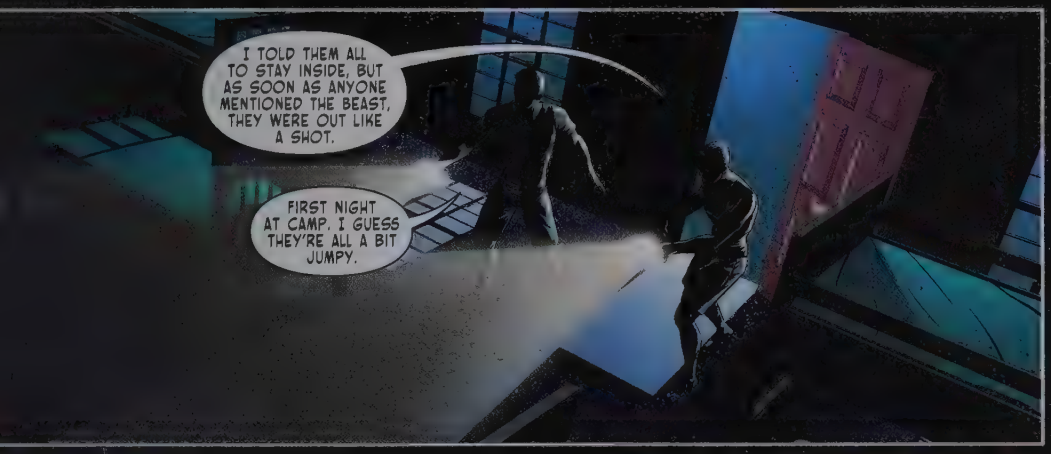

"I KNEW WHEN WE ARRIVED THAT SOMETHING WAS UP.
"MY HUNTER'S SENSE MADE THE HAIRS ON MY NECK STAND UP BEFORE WE EVEN GOT THROUGH THE GATE.
Camp Blue Mountain
SCHOOL BUS
"I PUSHED IT AWAY, HOPING TO LEAVE ALL THAT BEHIND IN MYSTIC FALLS, JUST FOR THE SUMMER, AT LEAST..."
OKAY GUYS, YOU'LL BE IN PAIRS, TEN CAMPERS TO A DORM, AND THAT IS YOUR GROUP FOR THE REST OF THE SESSION.
PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR NAMES DOWN FOR SPECIALIST SKILLS. IF YOU CAN DO JAZZ, TAP, AND MODERN, DON'T HIDE YOUR LIGHT UNDER A BUSHEL!
SO, SHOULD I GO ON THE LIST FOR "RISING FROM THE DEAD" OR JUST "DESTROYING VAMPIRES"?
ALREADY PUT YOU ON THE LISTS FOR "MOPING" AND "SARCASM." DON'T WORRY, JER, YOU'RE GOOD.
OKAY, SO JEREMY AND MAX ARE IN FENRIR, BRENDAN AND MIKE ARE IN BROKEFANG...
HEY, MOPING? WHAT DO YOU MEAN MOPING? I DON'T MOPE!

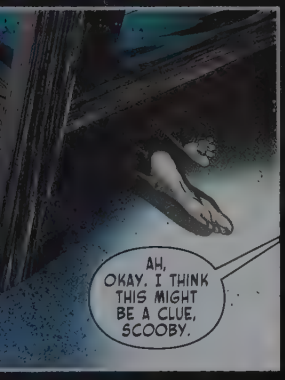
IN THIS ROW WE HAVE BROKEFANG, FENRIR, TIMMAIN AND MAUGRIM.
WE ARE LUCKY HERE AT BLUE MOUNTAIN IN THAT OUR DORMS HAVE THEIR OWN BATHROOM AT THE FAR END.
WAIT, DID SHE JUST SAY WE'RE LUCKY TO SHARE ONE BATHROOM AMONG TWELVE?
OKAY, BEFORE I HAND OUT CLIPBOARDS AND WHISTLES, ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?
YEAH. WHAT ARE THOSE?
THOSE, ACCORDING TO CAMP LEGEND, ARE THE MARKS OF THE BEAST OF BLUE MOUNTAIN!
IT WAS A PRANK WAY BACK. THEY'VE BECOME KIND OF A RITE OF PASSAGE.
EVERY YEAR, A FRESH BATCH OF KIDS TURNS UP ALL GOGGLE EYED, SCARED TO DEATH OF THE BEAST...
...BUT THEY ALL GO HOME GROWN UP AND READY TO TELL THEIR KID BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND SCARE THE PANTS OFF THEM INSTEAD.
YOU'LL HEAR THE STORY TONIGHT AROUND THE CAMPFIRE, I'M SURE.

...AND THE BEAST CHASED HIM BACK DOWN BLUE MOUNTAIN, ACROSS THE RIVER, AND ON UNTIL IT HAD HIM CORNERED!
YOU LEFT OUT THE ROCK FROM THE RIVER!
IT WASN'T A ROCK, IT WAS A HUNTING KNIFE! SO, HE STABBED THE BEAST, IN ITS BLACK HEART, AND IT THRASHED AND HOWLED!
AND EVERY FULL MOON AFTER THAT, THE BEAST ROAMED THE VALLEYS IN SEARCH OF REVENGE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IN SEARCH OF REVENGE"? WHAT DID IT LOOK FOR?
IT WAS LOOKING FOR HIM, YOU DUMMY! THE BOY! IT SEARCHED FOR HIM EVERY FULL MOON--
HOW? IF IT WAS DEAD? THAT'S SO STUPID.
HA! LOOK! D'YOU THINK IT'S TOASTED YET, AMY?
HAHA! SHE'S A TOTAL PYRO!
BURN BABY, BURN! HAH!

STOP IT, WILL YOU, REECE? LEAVE HER ALONE.
IT'S NOT HER FAULT SHE'S SCARED...
"SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BEAST'S BODY?"
"I'LL BET IT BURNED UP, OR MAYBE DISSOLVED INTO A PUDDLE OF SLIME!
OR MAYBE IT JUST LAID THERE... WAITING...
KRAK
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?
ZOMBIE BEAST!! RAARGH!
HAH! OH, I WISH YOU COULDA SEEN YOUR FACE. OH, THAT WAS AWESOME!
I'M GONNA POUND YOU SO HARD...
DON'T MIND HIM, AMY, C'MON, IT'S JUST A STORY.
THERE'S S'POSED TO BE SCARY STORIES AT CAMP, RIGHT?
"NONE OF IT'S REAL--THAT'S WHY IT'S FUN. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MONSTERS, OR THEIR GHOSTS.
"I DON'T WANT YOU LOSING ANY SLEEP OVER IT, OKAY?"

AAAAAAAH!
WHAT'S GOING ON? IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMEBODY WAS GETTING KILLED IN HERE!
BRITNEY WAS IN THE BATHROOM AND SHE SAW SOMETHI OUTSIDE THE WINDOW. S SAID IT WAS THE BEAS AND THEN SHE JUST WENT NUTS!
AMY SAID BRITNEY WAS ARGUING WITH A BOY, REECE, AT THE FIRESIDE TONIGHT.
SO, WHY NOT ASK REECE WHAT HE KNOWS THEN--BEFORE WE ALL GET OVEREXCITED?
HE'S IN MAUGRIM WITH ME, BUT I JUST CAME PAST AND HIS BED WAS EMPTY.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND HIM, SHALL WE? I DON'T IMAGINE HE'S GONE FAR.
MAN, IF THIS IS ALL SOME KIND OF A PRANK, HE IS GOING TO CLEAN OUR BATHROOM ALL WEEK!


I TOLD THEM ALL TO STAY INSIDE, BUT AS SOON AS ANYONE MENTIONED THE BEAST, THEY WERE OUT LIKE A SHOT.
FIRST NIGHT AT CAMP. I GUESS THEY'RE ALL A BIT JUMPY.


AH, OKAY. I THINK THIS MIGHT BE A CLUE, SCOOBY.

YOU MUST BE REECE, RIGHT?

I-I-I HEARD A NOISE OUTSIDE... I THOUGHT IT WAS BRITNEY, B-BUT IT WASN'T!
I-I SAW IT! I SAW THE BEAST!

GO AND GET HIM A HOT CHOCOLATE OR SOMETHING. CALM HIM DOWN.

HOLY...

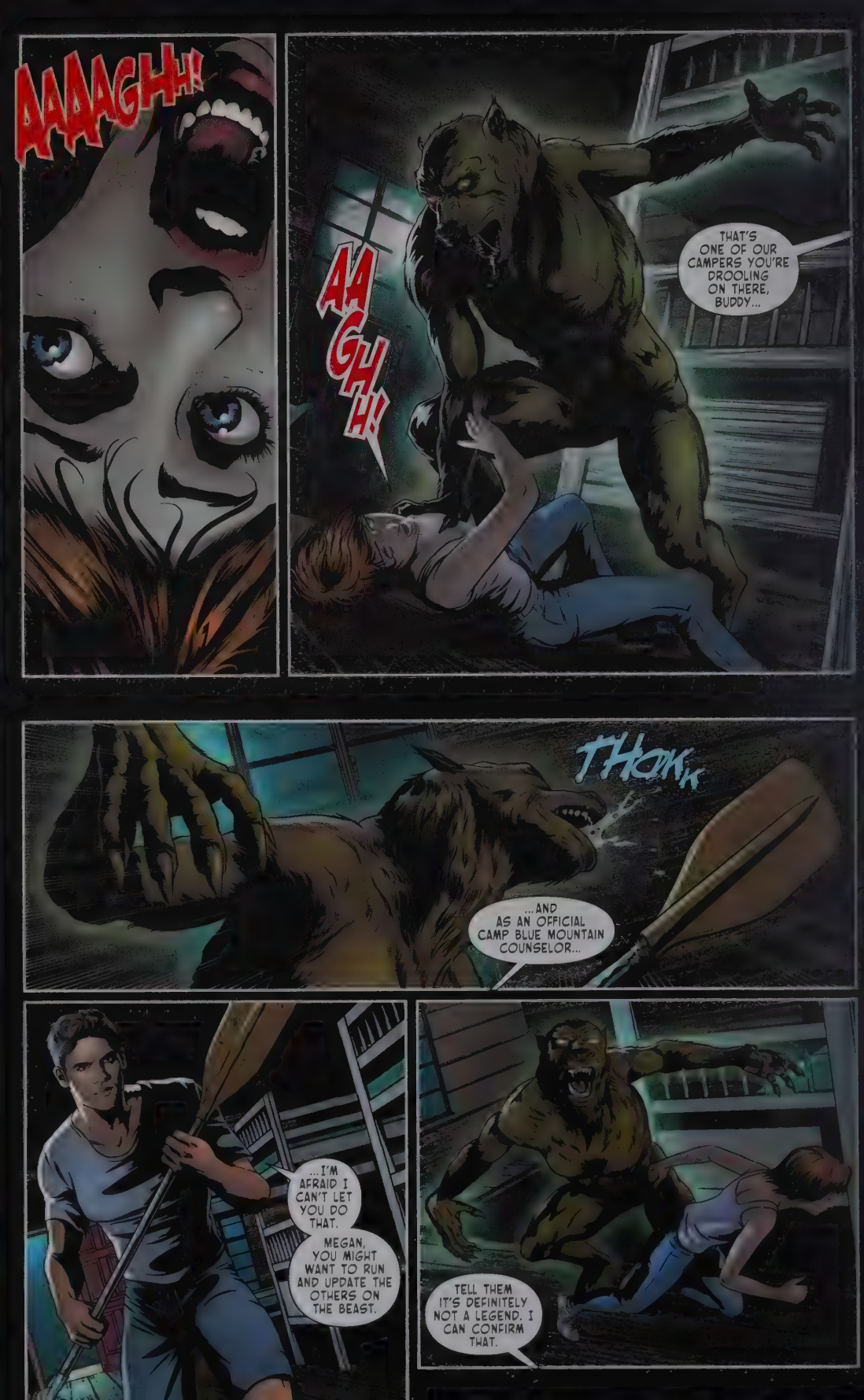
*THIS HAS GONE TOO FAR!

MUCH TOO FAR, AM I MAKING MYSELF CLEAR?
EVERY YEAR THE CAMPERS SCARE EACH OTHER WITH THE LEGEND OF THE BEAST. EVERY. YEAR.
BUT THIS YEAR, YOU ALL JOIN IN AND LET THEM GET HYSTERICAL, AND SPEND HALF THE NIGHT OUT IN THE COLD!
PARENTS DO NOT PAY TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS A SESSION TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN TRAUMATIZED!
IF A CAMPER HAS PLAYED A PRANK, THEN IT IS YOUR JOB TO DEAL WITH IT DISCREETLY. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
BUT BRITNEY SAW SOMETHING, I BELIEVE HER! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO SCARED!
YOU CAN DEAL WITH ONE SCARED KID, MISS YOUNG. WHAT I WON'T ACCEPT IS HUNDREDS OF THEM!
SO, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN REECE? OR THE DEER ON THE ROOF? IT WAS RIPPED RIGHT OPEN!
TWO PLUS TWO DOES NOT MAKE FIVE, MR. GILBERT!
YOU'RE RIGHT, JER. I KNOW YOU ARE.

B-BONNIE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M NEVER FAR. YOU KNOW THAT.
THE KIDS DID SEE SOMETHING. I'M NOT SURE WHAT, BUT THEY SAW IT.
THE CAMP LEGEND... DO YOU THINK THERE COULD BE SOMETHING TO IT?
MOST LEGENDS HAVE SOME ELEMENT OF TRUTH BURIED IN THEM.
I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST TO FIND OUT.
WOW, THANKS FOR DESERTING ME IN THERE!
WHAT WAS SO URGENT ANYWAY? SOMEBODY TWEET YOU OR SOMETHING?
I JUST HAD TO CHECK SOMETHING, I'M--
MISS YOUNG! MISS YOUNG! YOU GOTTA HELP!
BRITNEY'S HAVING A SEIZURE!

WHERE DID SHE GO?
FAYE TOOK HER TO THE INFIRMARY.
YOU SAID SHE HAD A SEIZURE...THIS LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE WENT CRAZY WITH A KNIFE!
"IT WAS BRITNEY ALL RIGHT. SHE WAS HOWLING AND THRASHING ABOUT.
"WE TRIED TO HOLD HER DOWN, BUT SHE WAS SO STRONG.
"I WAS TRYING TO GET TO THE DOOR WHEN IT STOPPED. SHE JUST FLOPPED BACK ON THE BED."
I--UH...I NEVER HEARD OF A SEIZURE LIKE THAT BEFORE.
IT HAPPENED. ASK ANYONE. IN FACT, ASK AMY, SHE FREAKED OUT, TOTALLY.
IT TRIED TO TAKE HER OVER BUT SHE FOUGHT IT.
IT'S COMING BACK, THOUGH. I CAN FEEL IT.
"IT'S NOT DONE WITH US YET.
"THE BEAST WANTS BLOOD."

"THE GIRLS WERE ALL SCREAMING SO LOUD AND I TRIED TO TELL THEM NOT TO, THAT THEY COULD HELP HER, BUT NOBODY WOULD.
"I COULD SEE IT...I COULD SEE IT IN THE AIR AND WHAT IT WAS DOING, BUT NOBODY LISTENED TO ME.
"IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS BOILING... UNDER HER OWN SKIN.
"IT WAS TOO WEAK THIS TIME, BUT IT'LL GET STRONGER.
IT'LL BE BACK, I KNOW IT.
HEY, DON'T WORRY. I'LL SLEEP IN WITH YOU GUYS TONIGHT, SO DON'T WORRY. C'MON--
I WOULDN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU GIRLS. I PROMISE.
THE BEAST OF BLUE MOUNTAIN WON'T GET PAST ME!

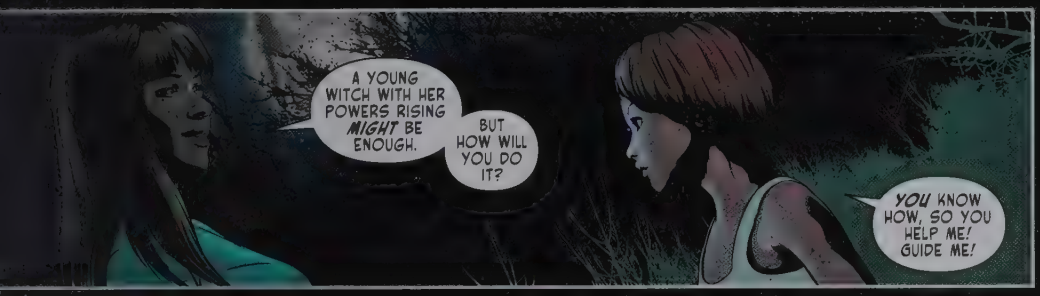

AAAAGHH!
AAGH!
THAT'S ONE OF OUR CAMPERS YOU'RE DROOLING ON THERE, BUDDY...
THOK
...AND AS AN OFFICIAL CAMP BLUE MOUNTAIN COUNSELOR...
...I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT.
MEGAN, YOU MIGHT WANT TO RUN AND UPDATE THE OTHERS ON THE BEAST.
TELL THEM IT'S DEFINITELY NOT A LEGEND. I CAN CONFIRM THAT.

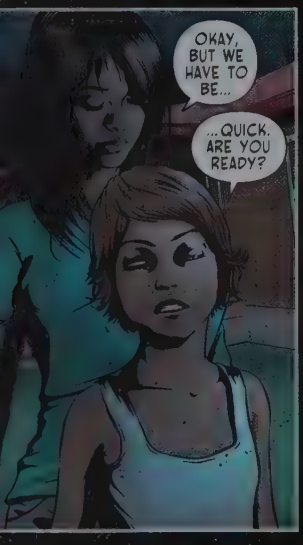
GRRRRR
I CAME HERE TO GET AWAY FROM ALL THIS!
I'VE HAD A LOT TO DEAL WITH THESE LAST FEW MONTHS. PLEASE, DON'T BE OFFENDED...
...IF I TAKE IT ALL OUT ON YOU.
WHUDD

WHERE THE HELL IS APRIL IN ALL THIS?
I THOUGHT THIS WAS HER DORM.
HEY, WHAT'S THAT?
APRIL'S NECKLACE!
YOU MUTT, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
GRRR
NO, YOU DON'T!

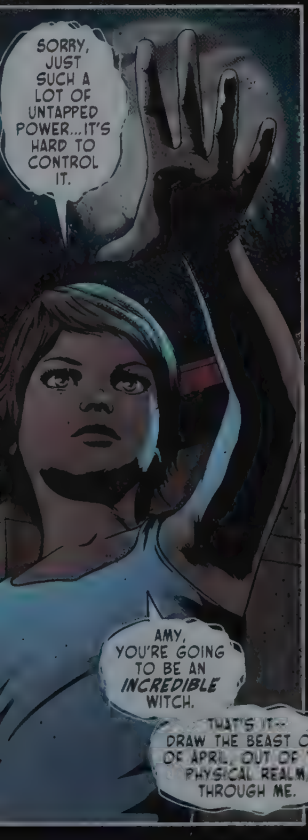
KSSSSSSH
NYYYYARGH!
NOW THEN, REMOVING THE HEART IS THE MOST RELIABLE WAY OF KILLING A WEREWOLF.
SO HOW ABOUT WE GET STARTED?
JER, NO! STOP!
THAT'S APRIL!

WHAT?
HOW CAN...?
THIS IS MISS MYSTIC FALLS?
I FOUND A GRAVE IN THE WOODS AND IT'S OPEN.
SOMETHING POWERFUL DREW IT BACK INTO OUR WORLD.
I THINK THE SPIRIT WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO LIVE-- BUT WHEN IT FOUND BRITNEY, SHE WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH.
APRIL HAS THE BEAST'S SPIRIT IN HER, SO WHEN THE MOON RISES, SHE CHANGES.
UNLESS WE GET THE SPIRIT OUT, IT'LL BE IN THERE FOR GOOD.
I CAN HELP.
YOU CAN HEAR ME? SEE ME?
IT'S MY FAULT IT CAME BACK. MY GRAMS IS A WITCH. SHE SAID I'D START TO FEEL NEW STUFF THIS SUMMER.
I THOUGHT SHE MEANT MY PERIOD... BUT I GUESS NOT.


A YOUNG WITCH WITH HER POWERS RISING *MIGHT* BE ENOUGH.
BUT HOW WILL YOU DO IT?
YOU KNOW HOW, SO YOU HELP ME! GUIDE ME!


OKAY, BUT WE HAVE TO BE...
...QUICK. ARE YOU READY?

WHAT WAS THAT? HOW DID SHE DO THAT, BONNIE? HOW DID SHE FINISH YOUR SENTENCE?
BONNIE? WHAT'S GOING ON? IF YOU HAVE A PLAN, PLEASE DO IT *NOW* BEFORE I DIE TOO!


SORRY, JUST SUCH A LOT OF UNTAPPED POWER...IT'S HARD TO CONTROL IT.
AMY, YOU'RE GOING TO BE AN *INCREDIBLE* WITCH.
THAT'S IT-- DRAW THE BEAST OUT OF APRIL, OUT OF THE PHYSICAL REALM, THROUGH ME.

THE SPIRIT IS GONE...IT IS DONE

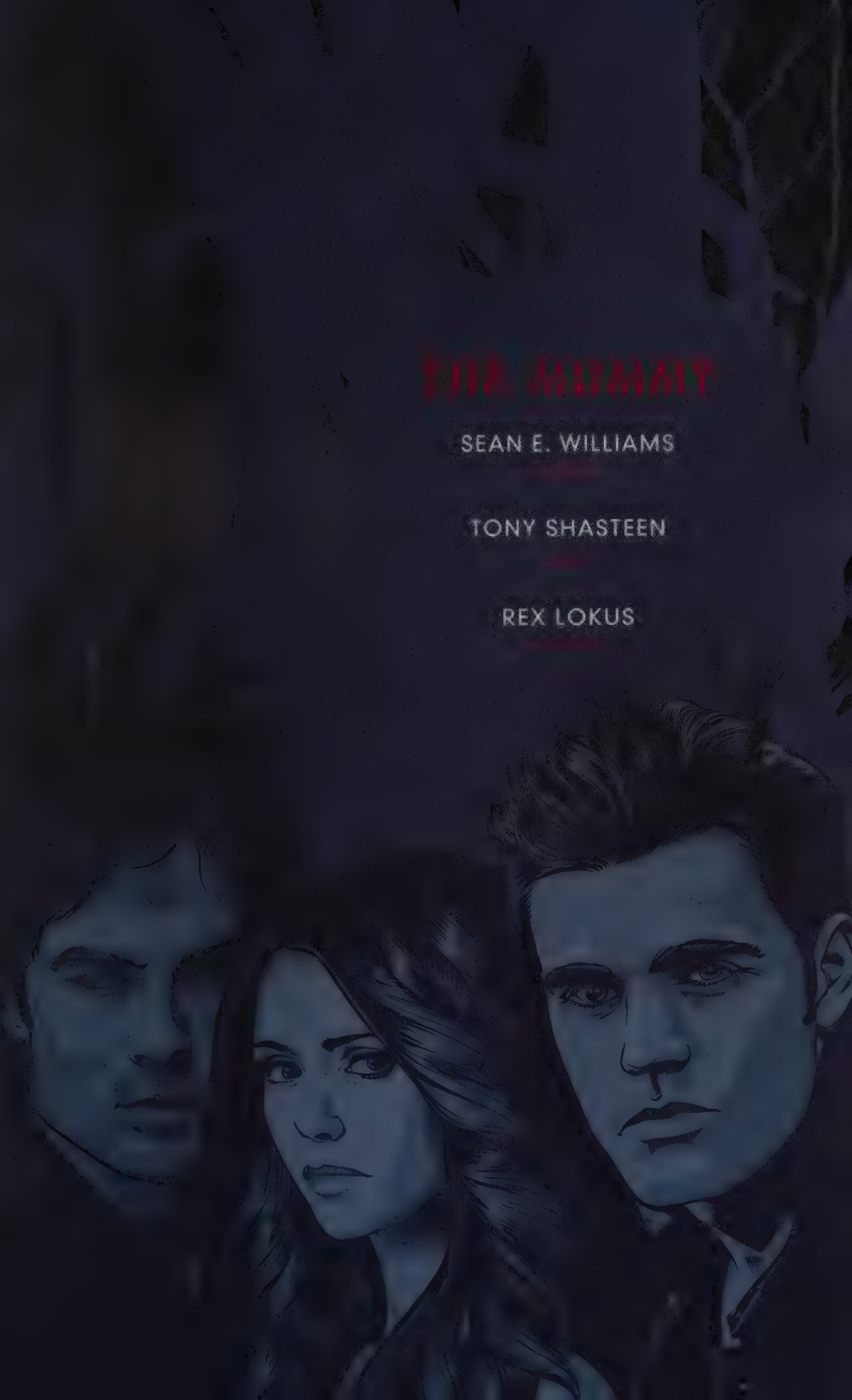
WAIT, WHAT? IT WAS ME? HOW CAN ALL THAT HAVE HAPPENED AND I DON'T REMEMBER?
BONNIE AND AMY HELPED EVERYONE FORGET. EVERYONE EXCEPT ME. I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE LAST OF IT.
S-SO THE BEAST OF BLUE MOUNTAIN... WAS ME?
I DON'T EVEN...
I KNOW, RIGHT. SO, IS THIS YOU?
YES, OH, UH, THANKS, JER, FOR THE RIDE HOME.
WELL, THAT WENT OKAY, I GUESS.
ARE... ARE YOU LAUGHING?
I'M JUST REMEMBERING THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE. "NAKED GIRL! EEEP!"
HEY! I...I MEAN... IT'S NOT...
JUST DRIVE, JER. JUST DRIVE.
THE END

THE ANIMALS

SEAN E. WILLIAMS

TONY SHASTEEN

REX LOKUS



EGYPT, 1901
THEY'VE FOUND SOMETHING!
OUT OF THE WAY! OUT OF THE WAY!
WHAT IS IT, DARLING?
IT'S...

THE MUMMY
HOREMHAB!"
YSTIC FALLS, 2009.
MYSTIC FALLS
HIGH SCHOOL
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DRAGGED ME INTO THIS, CAROLINE.
A NIGHT AWAY FROM OUR PARENTS? WITH NO CHAPERONES?
HOW COULD YOU NOT WANT IN ON THIS, MATT?
IF YOU TWO ARE DONE CHATTING...
...I APPRECIATE YOU ALL VOLUNTEERING.
THESE KIDS NEED ALL THE HELP THEY CAN GET, AND SPENDING AN EVENING AROUND FOLKS THEY CAN LOOK UP TO WILL DO THEM A LOT OF GOOD.
OU'LL ALL BE MEETING
AT THE MUSEUM AT
EVEN AFTER DINNER.
"YOU'LL BE PARTNERED UP WITH YOUR STUDENTS...
Horemhab's Tomb
FINAL DAYS!
"...AND THEN WE'LL GO ON A TOUR OF THE MUSEUM.
"ANY QUESTIONS?"

AND FINALLY, THE PORTION OF THE TOUR YOU'VE PROBABLY ALL BEEN WAITING FOR.
YOU'RE ALL IN FOR A TREAT. NOT MANY PEOPLE GET TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH A MUMMY.
AND BEFORE ANYONE ASKS: NO, THE EXHIBITS DO NOT COME TO LIFE ONCE WE LOCK THE DOORS.
NOW, WHO HERE KNOWS THE STORY OF HOREMHABI'S CURSE?
YES?
THE STORY GOES THAT, AS SOON AS THEY OPENED THE TOMB, THE MUMMY ATTACKED, AND KILLED THE EXHIBITION, THEN WENT BACK TO SLEEP.
THAT'S CORRECT. ANYONE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTER? ANY OF THE HIGH SCHOOLERS, PERHAPS?

THE EGYPTIAN WORKERS TOOK IT AS A SIGN FROM E GODS THAT THEY SHOULD OPPOSE THE BRITISH ARCHEOLOGISTS.
THEY RIOTED FOR TWO WEEKS, WHICH LED TO THE FRENCH GETTING THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO EXCAVATE IN THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS.
NERD.
I WAS INTO MUMMIES AS A KID. SO SUE ME.
THAT'S CORRECT.
AT FIRST, THE AUTHORITIES THOUGHT GRAVE ROBBERS IGHT HAVE ATTACKED THE TWO ARCHEOLOGISTS--AS A LARGE JEWEL, "THE HEART OF THE NILE," WAS TAKEN FROM THE SARCOPHAGUS.
BUT SINCE IT WAS THE ONLY THING MISSING FROM THE CAMP, THE RUMOR OF THE "MUMMY'S CURSE" SOON GREW WITH THE TELLING.
NOW... WHO WANTS TO GO INSIDE?

WHAT? NOT GOING, STEFAN?
I'VE NEVER BEEN INTO THE WHOLE "EGYPT" THING.
ONCE YOU'VE SEEN THE REAL THING, AN IMITATION LIKE THIS JUST LEAVES A BAD TASTE IN YOUR MOUTH.
WELL I THINK IT'S FUN. SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE!
YOU'RE NOT SO SCARY.
BOO!
BONNIE!
HAHAHA!
SORRY. I COULDN'T RESIST.
THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T SCARED OF THESE THINGS.
I'M NOT.
BUT WHEN YOU HAVE SOMEONE COME UP AND SHOUT "BOO!" IN YOUR FACE...
SORRY. SPEAKING OF SCARY... DID YOU SEE MATT AND CAROLINE?

TYPICAL.
I'M HAPPY FOR HIM.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU...
...HEY. ARE YOU GETTING A WEIRD VIBE FROM THIS THING?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT...
HEY. SO...DO YOU WANT TO SNEAK AWAY?
WHAT? WE HAVE TO WATCH THESE KIDS, MATT.
BUT WE WERE JUST...
SORRY.

HEY, STEFAN?
LOOK, I'M TRYING MY HARDEST TO GET OVER ELENA. I REALLY AM.
BUT I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S JUST ME, OR IF CAROLINE IS... PLAYING WITH ME.
I'VE SEEN HER KIND BEFORE.
THEY ARE ALL ABOUT PLAYING.
IS THAT WHY IT FEELS LIKE I'M LOSING?
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE!
THANK YOU ALL FOR BEHAVING YOURSELVES TODAY.
ELENA, CAN YOU DO ONE LAST HEAD COUNT? THEN WE CAN ALL GO TO SLEEP.
WE'RE MISSING SOMEONE. WHERE'S BILLY?
I'LL FIND HIM.

HEY, BILLY. TIME FOR BED.
AH, MAN. DO I HAVE TO? THIS MUMMY IS SO COO--
AAAAIIII!
AAAAAAAAAAA!!

GET THEM OUT OF HERE.
WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM?
HOW'D YOU DO THAT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE HAVE TO GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE. NOW. IT'S AN EMERGENCY.
IS THIS SOME KIND OF--?
RUN!!
GRAAA

HNH!
GRAAAAAAAA
HRGH!
GRAA
ELENA! KEEP EVERYONE BACK!
ARGH!
GRAAAAAAAA!!
ARGH!

OKAY. SO...NOT A VAMPIRE.
STEFAN! DUCK!
STEFAN!
STAY HERE.

SKRAAAAAAA
THANKS, BONNIE.
STEFAN! ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE, ELENA.
BUT IF WE DON'T ACT QUICKLY, WE COULD ALL BE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE.
I NEED YOUR HELP.
YOU AND BONNIE JUST FOUGHT A MUMMY. HOW CAN I--?
I NEED YOU TO FIND THE BOY WHO WAS HERE. BILLY.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I'M GOING TO TALK TO OUR TOUR GUIDE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, MATT. THAT MUMMY ALMOST GOT US.
IT'S OKAY, CAROLINE. IT'S GONE.
SHOULDN'T WE BE WATCHING THE KIDS?
WE ALMOST *DIED*, AND YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SOME KIDS?
BESIDES, THE PEP BAND DWEEBS TOOK THEM OUTSIDE ALREADY. THEY'RE FINE.
MISS...ACTUALLY, I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME. BUT YOU CAN COME OUT NOW. IT'S SAFE.
IT IS?
YEP. JUST COME ON OUT, AND I CAN TALK YOU THROUGH IT.
THE EXHIBIT WASN'T SAFELY INSTALLED, AND A LIGHT MADE THE MUMMY CATCH FIRE.
YOU DRAGGED IT OUT TO KEEP THE REST OF THE EXHIBIT FROM BURNING DOWN AND SAVED EVERYONE.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES.
GOOD.
NOW GO TELL THAT TO THE POLICE.
I FOUND HIM!
HEY, BILLY. CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?
YOU'RE SUPERMAN!
FINAL DAYS!
SCHOOL
...LUCKILY NO ONE WAS HURT, SHERIFF. PROBABLY JUST THAT SHODDY CONSTRUCTION THAT YOU FIND EVERYWHERE NOWADAYS.
FRANKLY, I'M SURPRISED IT DIDN'T HAPPEN SOONER.
CAN'T BELIEVE THE MUMMY CAME TO LIFE!
2202
IS THAT SO?

"HEY, BONNIE! WE GOT YOUR TEXT."
MYSTIC GRILL
GOOD. I'M GLAD YOU GUYS COULD MAKE IT.
I FOUND THIS FROM UP IN GRAMS' ATTIC.
TURNS OUT TEDDY CARVER, THE ARCHEOLOGIST WHO EXCAVATED HOREMHABI, BROUGHT HIS WIFE WITH HIM. AND GEMMA CARVER WAS A WITCH.
AND NOT JUST ANY WITCH, BUT THE MOST POWERFUL WITCH IN ENGLAND AT THE TIME.
THEY WEREN'T IN EGYPT LOOKING FOR MUMMIES. THEY WERE EXCAVATING SPECIFICALLY FOR "THE HEART OF THE NILE."
THE STONE WAS LEGENDARY AMONG WITCHES. WE'D BEEN LOOKING FOR IT FOR CENTURIES.
SO THIS TEDDY CARVER HAD NO INTEREST IN EGYPTOLOGY?
THEY WERE JUST GRAVE ROBBERS.
DON'T TELL MATT.
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JEWEL?
NO ONE KNOWS...

"...IT'S STILL MISSING."
THE HEART OF THE NILE.
THAT'S SPLENDID, DARLING!
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF SEARCHING...
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?

THE CURSE! THE CURSE!
STAY AWAY FROM HER!
GRUH
THOCK
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
A WALKING, GROANING MUMMY.
HELP ME LIFT IT ONTO THE TABLE SO I CAN EXAMINE IT BETTER.
TEDDY, DARLING...
...I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOO IDEA.

AUGH!
TEDDY!
RAAHRRR!
SO...

...HOW WAS YOUR LITTLE CAMPOUT?
RELATIVELY UNEVENTFUL.
WHAT? YOU AND ELENA DIDN'T DO IT IN THE SARCOPHAGUS OF THAT HORROR-HOTEP OR WHATEVER IT'S CALLED?
I'M DISAPPOINTED.
OH, THERE WAS THIS ONE THING THAT HAPPENED...
...WHEN I GOT UP CLOSE TO IT, THE MUMMY ATTACKED ME.
HUH. THAT'S STRANGE.
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE AN "UNEVENTFUL" EVENING AT ALL.
PLEASE, STEFAN. WHAT WOULD I HAVE TO DO WITH A MUMMY ATTACKING YOU?
BONNIE SAID IT'D BEEN BOOBY-TRAPPED WITH A SPELL, SET TO GO OFF IF A VAMPIRE GOT CLOSE.
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, WOULD YOU?

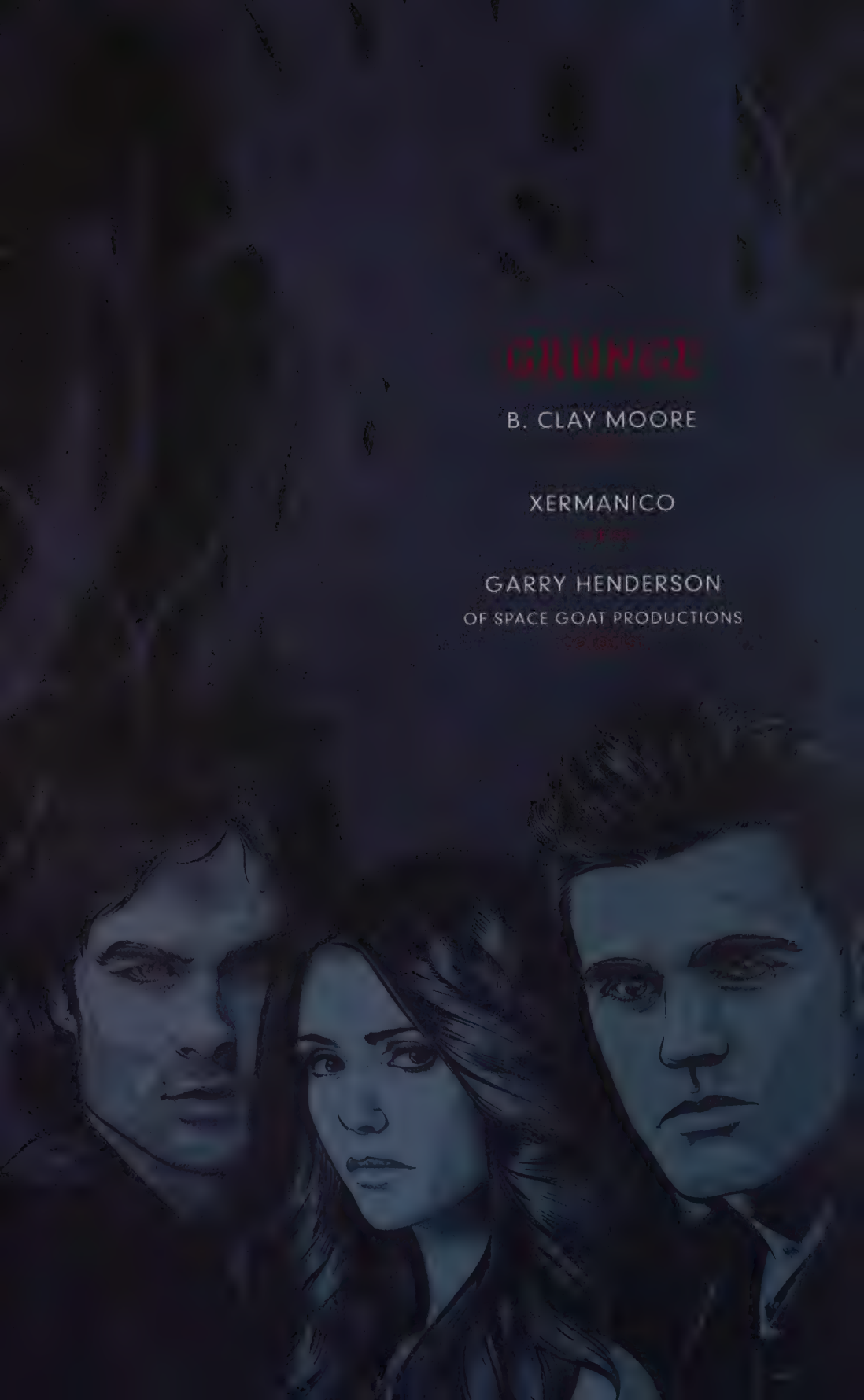
NO... PLEASE...
THE END?

GRUNGE

B. CLAY MOORE

XERMANICO

GARRY HENDERSON
OF SPACE GOAT PRODUCTIONS



THE VAMPIRE DIARIES Digital Chapters #21-23
cover by Lawrence Reynolds

SEATTLE. 1991.
THIS IS FINE, HON.
HAD A GREAT TIME, SUSAN...
SANDY.
RIGHT. SANDY.
SO, YEAH. I HAD A GREAT TIME. YOU'RE FREE TO HEAD BACK TO WICHITA NOW.
OMAHA.
OMAHA? REALLY? WHY AM I ALWAYS GETTING THOSE TWO CONFUSED?
OH. WELL. LET'S HAVE ONE MORE TASTE BEFO WE SEND YOU BAC TO THE HEARTLAND SANDY.

MMM. THE MIDWEST FARMER'S DAUGHTERS REALLY DO MAKE YOU FEEL ALL RIGHT.
MY FATHER IS A BANKER.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, SANDY. YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, ALL RIGHT?
IT'S BEEN FUN, DAMON SALVATORE. AT LEAST--I THINK IT HAS.
LIKEWISE.

LIVE MUSIC
THE
LIZARD
HEY. WE'RE FULL.
NO, YOU'RE NOT.
OH. YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY. ROOM FOR ONE MORE.
WHY, THANK YOU.

WHATEVER BOURBON YOU'VE GOT THAT WON'T PEEL THE PAINT OFF THE WALLS. STRAIGHT.
I'LL DO MY BEST, MAN.
NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT IN HERE.
AH.

I'M STARVING, STEFAN. WANT TO CUT IT SHORT AND GRAB A BITE?
HOW ABOUT IF WE TALK ABOUT IT OUTSIDE? THE NOISE IN HERE IS DEAFENING.
HEY--WAIT OUT FRONT FOR ME. I FORGOT TO PAY MY TAB AT THE BAR.
OKAY.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING IN SEATTLE, DAMON?
WHOA.

THAT'S AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF MACHO, BUT WE BOTH KNOW HOW A REAL CONFRONTATION WOULD END, BABY BROTHER. UNLESS YOU'VE GONE OFF YOUR DIET OF SQUIRRELS AND CHIPMUNKS?
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO BE HERE, DAMON.
WOW. HONESTLY, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HAPPY TO SEE ME, STEFAN. IT'S BEEN A WHILE, AND SINCE I WAS PASSING THROUGH...
T WASN'T EEN LONG ENOUGH. DON'T EVEN WANT KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TO. I JUST WANT OU TO GET OUT OF EATTLE AND LET ME LIVE MY LIFE.
OKAY, OKAY. IT'S REALLY NOT ALL ABOUT YOU, STEFAN. THE COUNTRY'S NOT THAT BIG. WE'RE BOUND TO CROSS PATHS EVERY NOW AND THEN. BUT IF YOU WANT ME TO MOSEY ALONG, I WILL. AS SOON AS I FINISH THIS DRINK.
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL DEAL WITH IT, DAMON. I DON'T NEED YOU INVOLVED IN MY LIFE RIGHT NOW.
I CAN'T DECIDE WHICH IS WORSE--THE MUSIC OR THE BOOZE.

SO WHY DON'T YOU HEAD BACK TO THE HOUSE, AND I'LL PICK UP SOME CHINA KING? EXTRA FORTUNE COOKIES AND EVERYTHING.
I THINK THAT SOUNDS GREAT. I'LL EVEN CLEAR OUT THE GANG BEFORE YOU GET HOME. I WOULDN'T MIND SPENDING SOME QUALITY TIME ALONE TONIGHT.
MAKE SURE YOU GET EGGROLL. I'M PRETTY SURE THEIR CRAB RANGOON IS MISSING ANYTHING CRAB-RELATED.
SO NOTED, MR. SALVATORE.
CHINA KING

KRISTEN.
WHAT? WHO'S THERE?
MY NAME IS DAMON. AND I'M AWFULLY GLAD TO MEET YOU.
I'M WATCHING THE SIMPSONS, STEFAN.
COME ON, DANNY. I NEED YOU GUYS OUT OF HERE FOR A FEW HOURS. I'LL LOAN YOU A FEW BUCKS TO HIT THE CLUBS. I THINK LOVE BATTERY'S PLAYING AT THE DOOR.
YEAH, LIKE I WANT TO FEED THE EGOS OF THOSE SELL-OUTS.
WELL, I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU GO, BUT YOU CAN'T STAY HERE.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. CHILL OUT, STEFAN. JUST LET ME FINISH MY BEER.

WAYNE! YOU'VE GOT TO THE COUNT OF FIVE TO CLEAR OUT BEFORE I THROW YOUR ASS OUT!
NOT BAD, I GUESS.
Nok
Nok
DAMN IT, GUYS. THAT'S PROBABLY KRISTEN. GET YOUR BUTTS IN GEAR, PLEASE. THIS ONE TIME?

KRISTEN? YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOCK-- DID YOU GET THE TAKEOUT?
KRISTEN?
DAMON SAYS HELLO.
WAIT-- WHAT--
NO!
KRISTEN. KRISTEN!

KRISTEN! DRINK. YOU HAVE TO DRINK.
WHAT-- WHAT WAS THAT? CAN YOU HEAR ME, KRISTEN?
MMM!
YOU'RE HURT-- BADLY. DON'T MOVE. DON'T--DON'T TRY TO TALK.
SHHH. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER SOON JUST--
YOU--HE-- HE SAID--
HE SAID--YOU WERE HIS--HIS BROTHER.

WHAT ARE YOU, STEFAN?
I--
ISTEN! WHAT WHAPPENED?
SHE'S--SHE HAD AN ACCIDENT. CALL 911.
HOA.
I'LL BE BACK. JUST MAKE SURE KRISTEN GETS TO A HOSPITAL. I'LL CHECK IN ON HER AS SOON AS I CAN.
BUT--WAIT. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THE BLOOD-- SO MUCH BLOOD.
N-NO. DAMN IT. NOT KRISTEN.

DAMON.
THERE HAS TO BE SOMEPLACE IN THIS TOWN WHERE A MAN CAN GET A DECENT DRINK IN PEACE.
WHITE STALL
AH. THIS LOOKS LIKE A NO-FLANNEL ZONE.
WELCOME TO THE WHITE STALLION. SIT ANYWHERE AND MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
THANKS. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'LL DO.

KING
AND TAKE-AWAY
WHERE ARE YOU, DAMON?
I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK NO ONE IN THIS TOWN HAD ANY FASHION SENSE UNTIL I MET YOU GIRLS. I MEAN-- I KNOW IT GETS COLD UP HERE, BUT WHO WEARS ARMY BOOTS WITH A SKIRT?
VERY NICE.
YOU TWO--GET OVER HERE. DADDY NEEDS ANOTHER BITE.
YOU KNOW-- I THINK YOU GIRLS WOULD REALLY LIKE MY LITTLE BROTHER. I SHOULD INTRODUCE YOU ALL.

SO, WHAT NOW, DAMON?
BRRRINGG
YEAH? OH--DANNY. RIGHT.
OKAY. YEAH, THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR. THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF HER, MAN. IT MEANS A LOT.
DOES SHE--DOES SHE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?
MAN, NOBODY KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED. I MEAN--WHAT DID HAPPEN, STEFAN?
I-- I DON'T KNOW, EITHER. I'M NOT REALLY SURE.

DON'T LET THE STARES BOTHER YOU, GIRLS. PEOPLE LOVE TO WATCH A PARADE.
HEY--MICHELLE--WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? WHO IS THIS GUY?
HI, ROBERT. THIS IS DAMON. HE'S TAKING US TO A PARTY.
HANDS OFF THE MERCHANDISE, ROBERT.
THIS IS MY SISTER, MAN. WHAT DID YOU GIVE HER?
NOTHING BUT A LITTLE ATTENTION. TELL YOU WHAT-- LET'S LET MICHELLE DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN JOIN US.
MICHELLE?
SORRY, ROBERT. BUT IT'S INVITATION ONLY.

AWW, DARN IT. SORRY ABOUT THAT, ROBERT. BUT YOU HEARD THE GIRL.
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE WITH MY SISTER, DUDE.
YES. YES, I AM.
URK!
CRASH
SORRY ABOUT THAT, GIRLS. YOU KNOW HOW IT IS WITH PARTYCRASHERS.
BUT THAT DID GIVE ME AN IDEA.

WHY DOES HE HAVE TO DO THIS? WHY CAN'T HE JUST LEAVE THINGS ALONE?
I SHOULD KNOW BETTER. HE IS WHAT HE IS.
WHAT?
SOMEONE'S--

WHAT THE HELL?
YOU-- YOU MUST BE STEFAN.
SHHH. DON'T-- DON'T TALK.
JESUS-- THE BLOOD. HAVE TO--

WHAT?
THIS IS DIANE AND THIS IS RHONDA. CAN WE COME IN?
YOU SON OF A BITCH!
WuuHF!
NNG!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO GREET YOUR BIG BROTHER?
GET--
--OFF.
UH!

I'VE GOT TO ADMIT--I'M IMPRESSED, LITTLE BROTHER. I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU'D WANT TO JOIN THE PARTY WHEN YOU SAW HOW MUCH FUN I WAS HAVING.
YOU'RE SICK, DAMON. SOMEDAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THAT I BEAT THAT PART OF MYSELF.
THERE'S NO REASON YOU COULDN'T DO THE SAME THING IF YOU WANTED TO. I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON YOUR HUMANITY COMPLETELY.
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, STEFAN--I MADE PEACE WITH MYSELF A LONG TIME AGO. AND I THINK YOU'RE KIDDING YOURSELF IF THIS IS THE LIFE YOU REALLY WANT TO LIVE.
I MEAN-- WHAT IS THIS? SOME KIND OF ARTIST COMMUNE? SHARING A RUNDOWN DUMP WITH SOME SLACKER POTHEADS AND THAT BLEACHED BLONDE--
KRISTEN.
HER NAME IS KRISTEN, AND YOU ALMOST KILLED HER.

IF WE'RE BEING LITERAL, SHE ALMOST KILLED HERSELF.
SEE? THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
YOU THINK YOU'RE PROVING SOMETHING BY RUINING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO NEVER DID ANYTHING TO YOU. I *LIKE* THESE PEOPLE. THEY MANAGE TO LIVE LIFE ON THEIR OWN TERMS WITHOUT HURTING ANYONE ELSE.
SPARE ME THE IDEALISM, STEFAN.
I'M SURE YOUR--KRISTEN--THINKS SHE'S HIT THE JACKPOT WITH HER BROODING BOYTOY, BUT WE BOTH KNOW IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU LEAVE HER AND THE REST OF THESE LOSERS BEHIND.
YEAH, WELL, THAT'S MY CALL, ISN'T IT? FOR NOW, I'M CONTENT HERE. THERE'S AN ENERGY THAT I HAVEN'T FELT FOR A WHILE, AND WHATEVER'S BETWEEN ME AND KRISTEN IS OUR OWN BUSINESS.
WELL--OKAY. YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR TRYING TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR TRUE NATURE. MAYBE I WENT A LITTLE OVERBOARD, BUT IF THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT, YOU CAN HAVE IT.
SO, THAT'S IT? I JUST TELL YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE AND YOU'LL HEAD OUT AGAIN? BECAUSE I DON'T WANT YOU HANGING AROUND SEATTLE.

LOOK, LITTLE BROTHER. IF I WANTED TO HANG AROUND SEATTLE, I'D HANG AROUND SEATTLE. YOUR DIET OF SQUIRRELS AND RABBITS CAN'T COMPARE TO MY DIET OF *HUMAN BLOOD.*
LET'S REMEMBER WHO'S THE STRONGER VAMPIRE HERE.
BUT, FRANKLY, SEATTLE SUCKS. THE WEATHER'S GLOOMY, THE GIRLS DRESS LIKE LUMBERJACKS, AND THE MUSIC SOUNDS LIKE IT'S BEING PLAYED ON CHAINSAWS BY SUICIDAL ART STUDENTS. I CAN THINK OF A THOUSAND BETTER PLACES TO BE.
OKAY. SO LEAVE. I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU GO, JUST STAY AWAY FROM ME.
FINE. ON ONE CONDITION.
WHAT? WHAT CONDITION, DAMON? I WANT TO GET THESE GIRLS OUT OF HERE BEFORE MY ROOMMATES WANDER BACK HOME.
JUST MEET ME FOR A DRINK.

I DON'T EVEN HAVE INSURANCE, STEFAN. HOW AM I GOING TO PAY FOR THIS?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'VE GOT THINGS COVERED.
YOU DO? BUT-- HOW?
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED. SOMEONE ATTACKED ME--BUT WHY? WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER ANYTHING?
YOU WERE IN SHOCK, KRISTEN. BLOOD LOSS. YOU'RE LUCKY YOU MADE IT TO THE HOUSE WHEN YOU DID.
SO, LISTEN-- DANNY AND WAYNE ARE BACK AT THE HOUSE. I KNOW YOU'RE EXHAUSTED...
...BUT I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A LITTLE *WELCOME HOME* CELEBRATION.
STEFAN--
LOW KEY, I PROMISE. THE DOCTOR SAYS YOUR THROAT'S AS GOOD AS NEW.
NO REASON YOU CAN'T HANDLE SOME ORANGE CHICKEN.
OH, GOD. CHINA KING?
NOTHING BUT THE BEST, BABE.

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?
IT'S A NICE NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT NOT TOO NICE. SOME KIDS THREW A BRICK THROUGH THE WINDOW LAST NIGHT. SCARED ME HALF TO DEATH, BUT THEY WERE FASTER THAN I WAS.
PUNKS.
OKAY. CAN I TRUST YOU GUYS TO KEEP AN EYE ON KRISTEN WHILE I'M OUT? STAY STRAIGHT ENOUGH TO MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T DO ANY HEAVY LIFTING OR ANYTHING?
I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANYTHING TO SMOKE, MAN. SHE'S IN GOOD HANDS.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE GONE SO LONG? I JUST WANT TO HANG OUT AT HOME WITH YOU.
I'M SORRY, BABE. AN OLD FRIEND IS IN TOWN, AND I PROMISED I'D HAVE A DRINK WITH HIM. ONE DRINK AND I'LL SEND HIM ON HIS WAY, I PROMISE.
AND DON'T EAT ANYTHING BEFORE I GET BACK. I'LL RETURN WITH A FEAST FIT FOR KINGS.
NO WORRIES. THERE'S NOTHING BUT STALE POTATO CHIPS IN THE HOUSE, MAN.
HEY--PICK UP A SIX-PACK WHILE YOU'RE OUT, TOO.

CUTE SCARF.
OH--THANKS.
SORRY--I'VE GOT AN ABSOLUTELY POUNDING HEADACHE. I REALLY TIED ONE ON LAST NIGHT, I GUESS.
YOU DON'T SAY.
THERE HE IS.
A LITTLE QUIETER THAN YOUR NORMAL HANGOUTS, ISN'T IT?
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW? IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE WE HUNG OUT. ONE OF THESE FOR MY FRIEND, SWEETHEART.
HERE YOU GO, HON.
OH--THANKS.
YOU REALLY ARE SICK, MAN. I SENT THAT GIRL HOME IN A DAZE AT TWO O'CLOCK THIS MORNING.
I CAN'T HELP IT IF I LIKE THE AMBIANCE HERE, CAN I?

SO, LOOK. I'M NOT GOOD AT THIS KIND OF THING, SO I'LL KEEP IT BRIEF.
I'M SORRY, ALL RIGHT? I STEPPED OVER THE LINE.
OKAY. I'M LISTENING.
MAYBE I WAS BORED, OR JUST BEING AN ASS...
...BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU WERE MINDING YOUR OWN BUSINESS, AND, NO MATTER WHAT I THINK OF YOUR LIFESTYLE, YOU'RE STILL MY BROTHER.
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE THAT AT FACE VALUE? JUST LIKE THAT? YOU ALMOST KILL MY GIRLFRIEND, VICTIMIZE A GROUP OF INNOCENT GIRLS, AND POOF.
IT'S OKAY BECAUSE YOU'RE SORRY?
YEAH. SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
ALL RIGHT. FINE. APOLOGY ACCEPTED.
REALLY?
SURE. WHY NOT? ALL I WANT YOU TO DO IS LEAVE TOWN. IF THE LAST THING I HEAR FROM YOU EVER AGAIN IS AN APOLOGY, I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.
HUH.
FAIR ENOUGH. I'LL DRINK TO THAT.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE SOME SHOPPING TO DO.

HE'S CUTE.
SHUT UP, DIANE.
CHINA KING
CHINESE RESTAURANT & TAKE A

WOULD YOU BE MAD IF I FORGOT THE EGG--
NO.
GOOD BYE

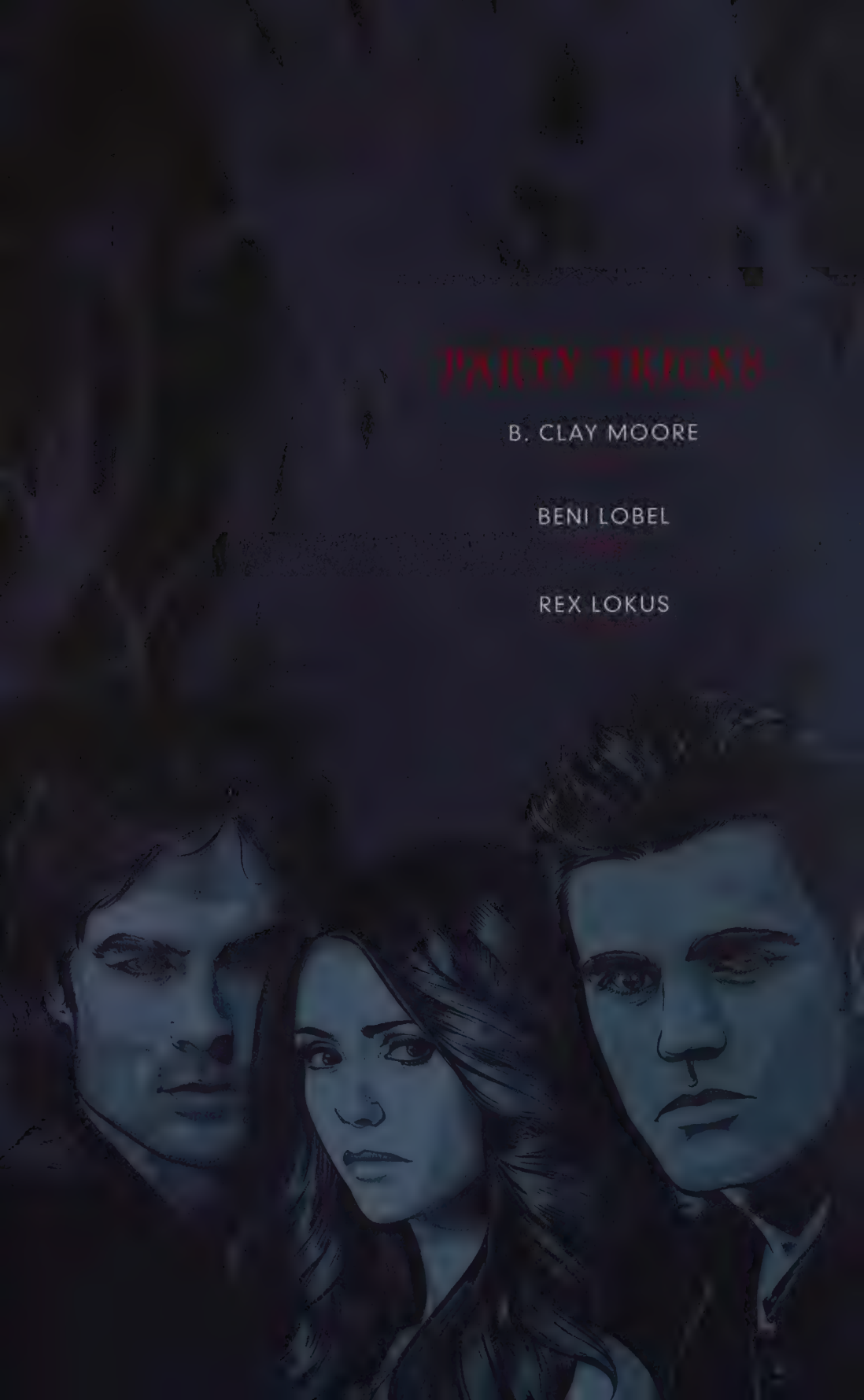
SACK--
KOFFE
DAMONNNN!
SO WHERE ARE WE GOING, DAMON?
OH, I DON'T KNOW.
HOW ABOUT SOMEPLACE WITH LOTS OF SUNSHINE?
THE END

PARTY TRICKS

B. CLAY MOORE

BENI LOBEL

REX LOKUS



I DON'T KNOW, CAROLINE. SO FAR, THIS PARTY SEEMS AN AWFUL LOT LIKE, YOU KNOW--
--EVERY OTHER PARTY I'VE BEEN TO ON CAMPUS. OVERSEXED FRAT BOYS AND UNDERSEXED CO-EDS.
AND REALLY CHEAP WINE.
OH, JUST RELAX AND HAVE SOME FUN, ELENA. THE GUY WHO LET US IN IS IN MY CHEM CLASS. HE'S SUPER SWEET, AND I PROMISED WE'D MAKE AN APPEARANCE.
DOES ANYONE ELSE THINK THIS WINE CAME OUT OF A BOX?
GAH. YOU, TOO.
OKAY, YOU GUYS. LET ME SAY HI TO PAUL, AND IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE AFTER THAT, WE CAN LEAVE AFTER THAT.
I WANT TO LEAVE AFTER THAT.
AAAAAAHH!
SOUNDS LIKE THINGS JUST GOT INTERESTING, ANYWAY.

WHAT HAPPENED, JENNY? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HE JUST-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. HE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE--MY NECK...
OH, MY GOD. WHAT THE HELL?
IS IT BAD?
UH-OH.
UM--I'M GOOD WITH FIRST AID STUFF. I COULD--
NO! I'LL-- I'LL HANDLE IT. I'LL TAKE HER UPSTAIRS TO LIE DOWN. SOMETHING WEIRD IS GOING ON HERE.
DOES THAT MAKE SENSE? WHO WOULD ATTACK A GIRL IN THE MIDDLE OF A PARTY?
MAYBE WE SHOULD CHECK AND SEE IF DAMON WAS ON THE GUEST LIST.
FUNNY, CAROLINE.
I'M GOING TO FIND PAUL. THIS IS HIS HOUSE. MAYBE HE HAS AN IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON.

PAUL? ARE YOU UP HERE?
CAROLINE. GLAD YOU COULD MAKE THE PARTY. WHY DON'T YOU STAY DOWNSTAIRS AND I'LL JOIN YOU AFTER I-- CLEAN UP.
UH--RIGHT. I GUESS I'LL JUST DO THAT. I'LL GRAB ANOTHER GLASS-- WELL, CUP--OF WINE.
WHOA! WHAT'S YOUR HURRY?
IN THE-- IN THE KITCHEN. THE REFRIGERATOR. IT'S--UGH, TOO GROSS.
SO, LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
BONNIE, HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED IN A COLLEGE GUY'S REFRIGERATOR? THE ONLY THING GROSSER IS HIS BATHROOM.
UH--ELENA-- YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

OOOKAY. THAT'S DEFINITELY WEIRD.
AB-
A-
B+
A+
B+
B-
YEAH, YOU THINK?
YOU GUYS-- THIS IS GOING TO SOUND TOTALLY STRANGE. BUT YOU DON'T THINK PAUL COULD BE A--
--VAMPIRE?
WELL, IF HE IS, HE'S A SLOPPY ONE.
THAT WAS IN THE FRIDGE? REALLY?
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE?
THEY WON'T LET US GO. THAT CREEPY GUY AT THE DOOR SAYS WE HAVE TO STAY UNTIL THEY'RE "FINISHED WITH US."
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.

ROLINE, YOU FIND PAUL?
OH-- RIGHT. THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TELL YOU. I WASN'T SURE HOW TO BRING IT UP WITH HIM. BUT HE'S ACTING VERY-- VAMPIRE-Y.
WELL, IF HE IS A VAMPIRE, I THINK HE'S EARNED A STAKE. LET'S GO CHAT WITH YOUR FRIEND.
WHERE WAS HE?
DOWN THE HALL.
GUYS-- SOMEONE'S IN THE BATHROOM.
HEY!
OH-- SO, HOW'S THAT NECK BITE?
GOD, WHATEVER. PAUL'S IDEA OF A JOKE. HE'S SUCH AN ASS. HE'S GOT A WHOLE BUNCH OF STUFF PLANNED, BUT I'M DONE WITH HIM.
RIGHT. WELL, I DON'T BLAME YOU.

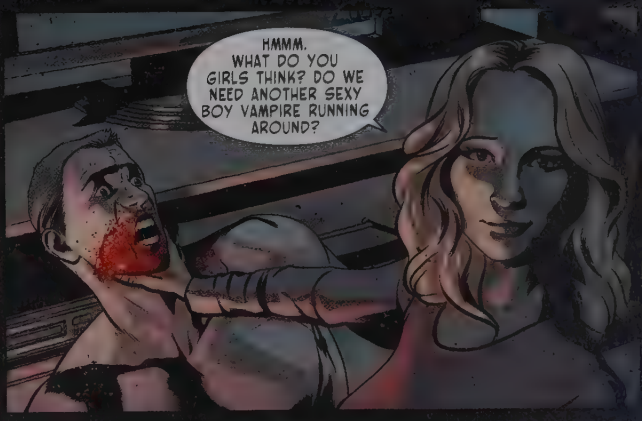
SO...?
SO, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE?
YOU KNOW WHAT?
LET'S NOT.
PAUL? ARE YOU IN THERE, PAUL? SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON. I'M A LITTLE WEIRDED OUT.
WELCOME TO MY ROOM, CAROLINE FORBES.
GASP
CAROLINE? COME IN--IF YOU DARE.
HEY, DO YOU MIND IF MY FRIENDS COME IN, TOO?
HI--PAUL, IS IT? PRETTY FREAKY SCENE HERE.

YOU--GO CLEAN UP AND FORGET WE WERE HERE.
WHAT? WAIT, JULIE--
I-- OKAY, RIGHT.
AW, MAN. WHO GAVE IT AWAY? WAS IT JENNY? IT WAS JENNY, WASN'T IT?
GAVE WHAT AWAY, PAUL? WE JUST WANTED TO JOIN YOUR PARTY.
WAIT-- YOU MEAN THESE AREN'T REAL?
AWW--HOW DISAPPOINTING.
DISAPPOINTING?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MEMBER OF THE CLUB.
WHAT THE HELL?
MAYBE HE WANTS TO JOIN THE CLUB?
GUCK!
N-NO...

CLUNK
OOOF
WHAT ARE YOU? LEAVE ME ALONE!
THOSE TWO? VAMPIRES. ME?
I'M A WITCH. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO WITH FLAMES AND CANDLE WAX?
AAAHH!
HERE'S HOW THIS WORKS, PAUL.
IT WAS JUST A JOKE-- PLEASE--
I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE A TASTE. HOPEFULLY, YOU'RE NOT TOO TASTY BECAUSE-- SOMETIMES I HAVE TROUBLE CONTROLLING MYSELF.
W--WHAT?

N-NO!
MMMMMMMM
WHOA--EASE UP, ELENA!
MMMM. SO--GOOD.
OH MY GOD. OH MY GOD.
CAROLINE--HE'S BLEEDING ALL OVER. MAYBE YOU'D BETTER FIX THAT.
OH, GOD. I GUESS I'D BETTER.
DRINK UP, PAUL. THAT'S A NASTY GASH, AND YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED.
NNNG!
OH, BUT HERE'S THE THING--YOU NOW HAVE VAMPIRE BLOOD IN YOUR SYSTEM. SO, IF, SAY, SOMEONE--SNAPPED YOUR NECK--GUESS WHAT?
YOU'D BECOME ONE OF US, PAUL. A FOR-REAL VAMPIRE. DOES THAT TURN YOU ON?

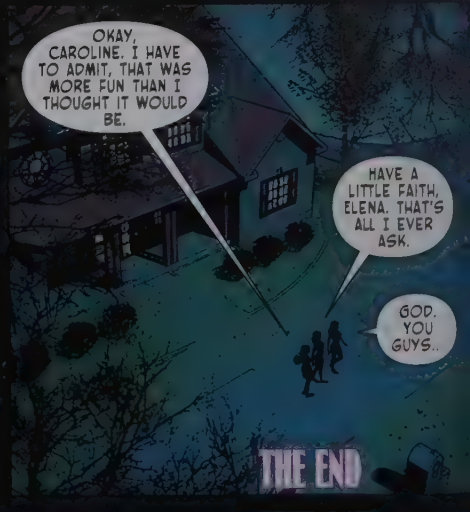
N-NO. IT DOESN'T. I PROMISE. IT DOESN'T. IT DOESN'T. I SWEAR.


HMMM. WHAT DO YOU GIRLS THINK? DO WE NEED ANOTHER SEXY BOY VAMPIRE RUNNING AROUND?

THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE I THINK NOT SO MUCH, CAROLINE.

PAUL--YOU LUCKY BASTARD. YOU'RE GOING TO FORGET ANY OF THIS HAPPENED, AND THEN YOU'RE GOING TO GO DOWNSTAIRS AND TELL YOUR GUESTS YOU'RE SORRY FOR BEING SUCH AN ASS.
I--I WILL. I'M AN ASS. I REALLY AM.

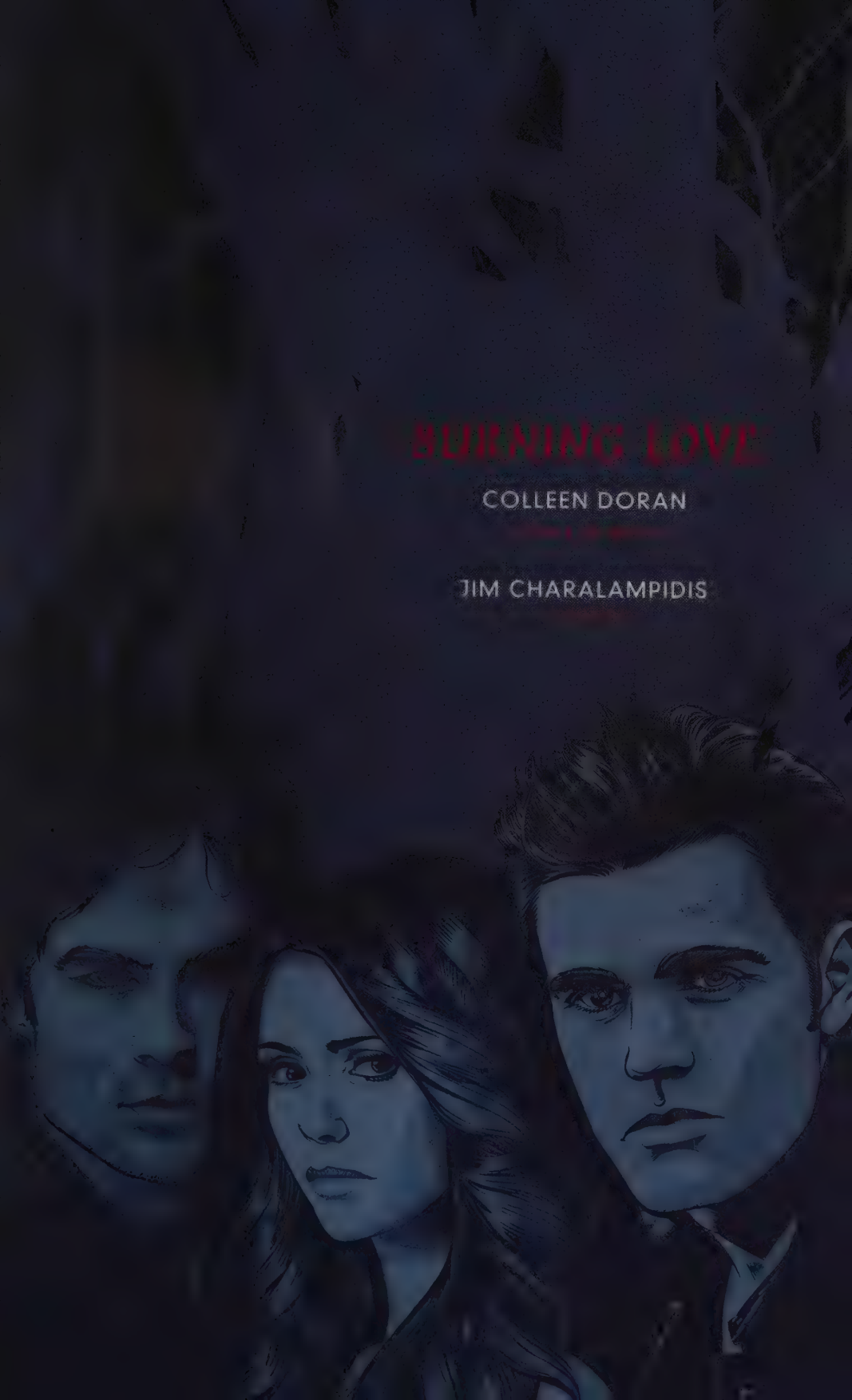
GOOD BOY, PAUL.
NOW LET'S GO SEE IF THAT BLOOD IN THE FRIDGE WAS REAL.


OKAY, CAROLINE. I HAVE TO ADMIT, THAT WAS MORE FUN THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
HAVE A LITTLE FAITH, ELENA. THAT'S ALL I EVER ASK.
GOD. YOU GUYS..
THE END

BURNING LOVE

COLLEEN DORAN

JIM CHARALAMPIDIS



THE VAMPIRE DIARIES Digital Chapters #25 27
unused cover by Colleen Doran

ABBIE! MY DAUGHTER, OH MY GOD, MY DAUGHTER! ABBIE!
JAN, GET BACK!
ABBIE DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR CHEERLEADING PRACTICE-- I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG! SHE MUST STILL BE IN THE HOUSE!
CRISPY BY NOW.
DAMON, YOU ARE SUCH AN ASS!
HER HOUSE BURNED DOWN ABOUT A YEAR AGO! HOW COULD THAT HAPPEN TWICE?
C'MON, DAMON!

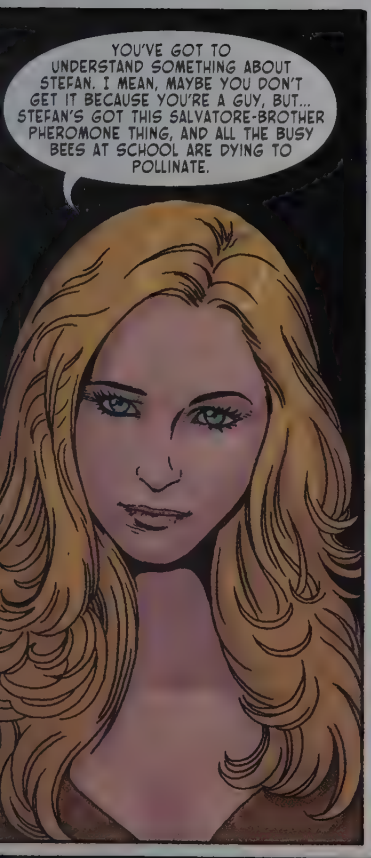
LET'S FIND ABBIE!
STEFAN, DID THE VAMPIRE FAIRY MAKE YOU FIREPROOF? I'M NOT GOING IN THERE! AND DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING? THAT ABBIE CHICK IS NUTS!
FINE. STAND HERE AND LET ELENA SEE WHAT A COWARD YOU ARE...
WOW, THAT'S PULLING BY THE SHORT ONES...
ABBIE! ABBIE, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED IN HERE?

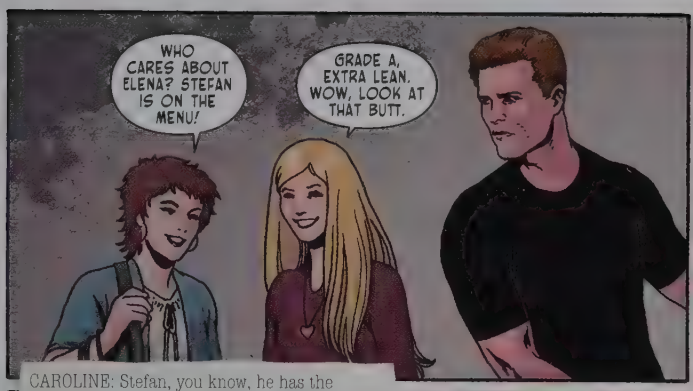
SHE'S OVER THERE! GOT TO BE DEAD ALREADY...
WOW, BLOOD EVERYWHERE! DID SOMEBODY RUN HER THROUGH A CUISINART AND THEN LIGHT UP? JEEZ, I SMELL LONG PIG...
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED IN HERE?
NOT OUR PROBLEM! NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW. C'MON, I HEAR SIRENS, LET'S GO!
I DIDN'T DO IT. I SWEAR... I--I DIDN'T TOUCH HER!
Stefan. SALVATORE
17 years old
suspect

YOU'RE BEING RECORDED. JUST SPEAK NORMALLY.
Elena GILBERT
17 years old
witness
WELL, YES, IT'S TRUE STEFAN AND I... WELL, WE WERE TAKING A BREAK. BUT, NO! I MEAN, ABBIE WASN'T...UM...
Bonnie BENNETT
17 years old
witness
ABBIE WAS A NICE GIRL. TROUBLED. BUT A NICE GIRL. MOSTLY.
Caroline FORBES
17 years old
witness (note: daughter of Sheriff Forbes.)
WELL, SOMETIMES SHE DRESSED NICE, AND SOMETIMES SHE DIDN'T. NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT...
...DID THAT SOUND BITCHY?
Jamie WEBER
42 years old
mother of the deceased
ABBIE WAS DEVASTATED WHEN SHE LOST HER FATHER IN THE FIRE. THE FIRST FIRE, I MEAN. I THOUGHT SHE'D NEVER GET OVER IT!
WE ALL TRIED VERY HARD TO HELP HER. I THOUGHT WHEN SHE MADE THE VARSITY SQUAD, SHE'D CHEER UP. BUT I, UH... GUESS THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT. AND I KNOW HOW HARD THAT CAN BE... FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE...
IT WAS ROUGH. ON EVERYBODY... AND THEN THERE WAS THAT THING WITH MARISSA. THAT WAS... THAT WAS OUT OF CONTROL.

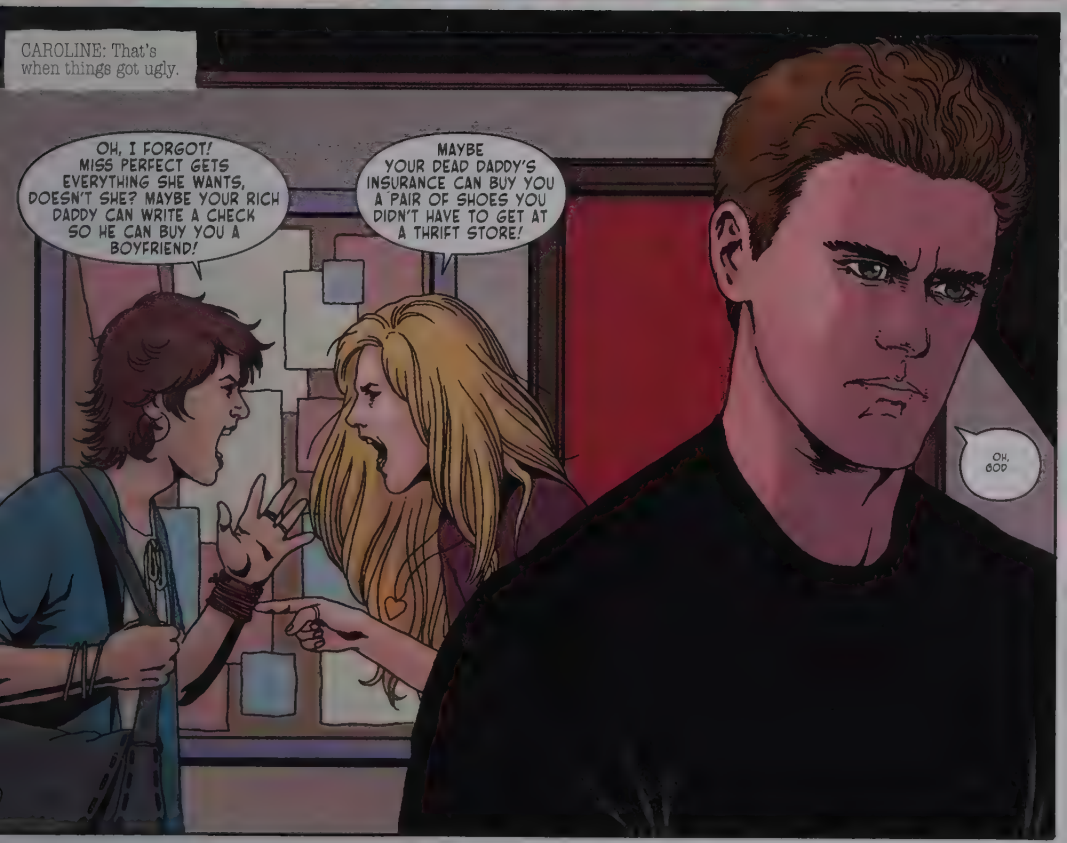
ONE YEAR EARLIER...
ABBIE, I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT YOUR DAD.
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU. YOU DIDN'T CALL!
I'M OKAY, THERESA. I JUST NEEDED SOME ALONE TIME.
BONNIE: What... about Marissa? Really nice girl.
THE POLICE SAY AN ELECTRICAL SHORT STARTED IT. I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT... MY DAD DYING THAT WAY. HE WAS A FIREMAN!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE UP TO CHEERING AT THE PEP RALLY TODAY?
OF COURSE SHE'S UP TO IT! NEWLY RISEN FROM THE J.V. RANKS--THIS IS JUST WHAT SHE NEEDS TO GET BACK TO HER OLD SELF! AND WHERE WOULD I BE WITHOUT MY SPOTTER?
UM... WELL, DON'T FORGET TO CALL ME...
BONNIE: But Marissa was blonde. You know, LOTS OF blonde.
BONNIE: She really went out of her way to help Abbie. It was nice at first, but...patronizing, kind of.
BONNIE: But Abbie seemed like she was getting better. For a while.

AND THEN THERE WAS THE SALVATORE THING.
OH. YEAH. THE SALVATORE THING. ABBIE WAS HOT FOR STEFAN SALVATORE. BIG TIME. UM... DID THAT SOUND NASTY? WHAT ARE YOU WRITING DOWN?
NOTHING HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM.
ELENA: Stefan and I...we had issues. We needed a break. But he didn't see other people then, and neither did I.
WOLVES
WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN!!!
HAVE YOU HEARD? STEFAN IS ON THE OPEN MARKET!
FINALLY DUMPED THAT STUCK UP ELENA GILBERT!
HOTTIE HOTTIE HOTNESS!


YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING ABOUT STEFAN. I MEAN, MAYBE YOU DON'T GET IT BECAUSE YOU'RE A GUY, BUT... STEFAN'S GOT THIS SALVATORE-BROTHER PHEROMONE THING, AND ALL THE BUSY BEES AT SCHOOL ARE DYING TO POLLINATE.


WHO CARES ABOUT ELENA? STEFAN IS ON THE MENU!
GRADE A, EXTRA LEAN. WOW, LOOK AT THAT BUTT.

CAROLINE: Stefan, you know, he has the brooding brow and the dark handsome whatever. And that thing he does with his hair.
LOOK ALL YOU LIKE. THAT'S MY DINNER.
OH, EXCUSE ME, I DIDN'T SEE YOUR BRANDING MARK ON THE MEAT.


CAROLINE: That's when things got ugly.
OH, I FORGOT! MISS PERFECT GETS EVERYTHING SHE WANTS, DOESN'T SHE? MAYBE YOUR RICH DADDY CAN WRITE A CHECK SO HE CAN BUY YOU A BOYFRIEND!
MAYBE YOUR DEAD DADDY'S INSURANCE CAN BUY YOU A PAIR OF SHOES YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GET AT A THRIFT STORE!
OH, GOD

Damon SALVATORE
24 years old
brother of prime suspect
WELL, MY BROTHER STEFAN HAS ISSUES. VOLUMES, ACTUALLY. AS HIS ELDER, I TRY TO GUIDE HIM, AND OF COURSE, I TEACH HIM TO RESPECT GIRLS. ONE DOES WHAT ONE CAN.
IT WAS ALL-OUT WAR AFTER THAT. ABBIE WAS ALWAYS ON THE EDGE OF THE A-LIST, AND SHE THOUGHT GETTING STEFAN WOULD PUT HER AT THE TOP.
IF THEY'D BOTHERED TO ASK, THEY WOULD HAVE KNOWN STEFAN WAS STILL CRAZY ABOUT ELENA.
WELL, STEFAN... WHAT CAN I SAY? HE CAN BE A BIT OF A DOG.
OH BROTHER MINE, THAT GIRL CALLED AGAIN.
WHO?

DAMON: I think he encouraged her. Sad to say.
ABBIE- SOMETHING. DON'T YOU WANT TO HELP HER WITH HER HOMEWORK?
DON'T BE A DICK. SHE'S A KID.
SO IS ELENA. THAT DIDN'T STOP YOU.
ARE YOU LECTURING ME ON ETHICS? PLEASE.
NO, I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY YOU DON'T JUMP THE HURDLE WHEN IT'S SO LOW AND EASY.
YOU'RE A PIG!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOC
SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR! COULD IT BE... LOVE?

IF IT'S HER, GET RID OF HER! NO! I MEAN, SEND HER ON HER WAY, SAFELY. AND FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, PUT ON A ROBE!
DAMON: Like I said, it's important to me to be a good example for my little brother.
WELL, HELLO, LITTLE CHEERLEADER.

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?
IS STEFAN HOME?
OOPS. I DROPPED MY TOWEL.
NO WORRIES, HERE YOU GO.
IS STEFAN HOME?
STEFAN, THERE'S A CRAZY CHEERLEADER AT THE DOOR! SHE SEES ME, YET SHE WANTS YOU.
OH, HAHA!

WOW. ABBIE. YOU'RE HERE. DAMON, THANKS FOR THAT.
NO PROB, BRO.
I'M SORRY. MY BROTHER CAN BE KIND OF A JERK.
OH? NO BIG DEAL. NOTHING I HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE.
NO BIG DEAL? DID YOU HEAR THAT, DAMON? NO BIG DEAL?
OH, THE HILARITY.
I CALLED AND CALLED. I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU GOT MY MESSAGES-- I JUST HAD TO SEE YOU. NO ONE ELSE CAN HELP ME WITH THIS CALCULUS PROBLEM. I'D BE SO GRATEFUL IF YOU'D GIVE ME A HAND HERE.
...CALCULUS?
FIFTEEN MINUTES/ HALF AN HOUR AT MOST. I'M NEVER GOING TO GET MY HOMEWORK IN ON MONDAY IF I DON'T GET THROUGH THIS AND...IT'S BEEN SO HARD TO CONCENTRATE. WHAT WITH THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY DAD'S DEATH AND ALL.
OH...OKAY. JUST A FEW MINUTES ABBIE, I HAVE TO BE SOMEWHERE...

DAMON: My brother throws himself at these girls. I've had to talk to him about his behavior over and over! It's a burden...
ABBIE, GET OFF ME! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HEY, GREAT! I'M GETTING POPCORN!
STEFAN, I LOVE YOU! I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU!
DAMON, YOU BASTARD!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK ABOUT OUR MOTHER?
STEFAN, I'D LET YOU DO ANYTHING TO ME, ANYTHING!
OKAY, I'M CALLING YOUR MOTHER!
NO!
MATERNAL REFERENCES ABOUND. THAT'S A MAJOR COCKBLOCK FOR ME.
I'M DEAD SERIOUS, ABBIE! GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME AND GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!
DAMON: I strongly discouraged Stefan from pursuing a relationship with this girl. I could see she was a fragile soul.
YOU FORGOT YOUR UNDERWEAR!

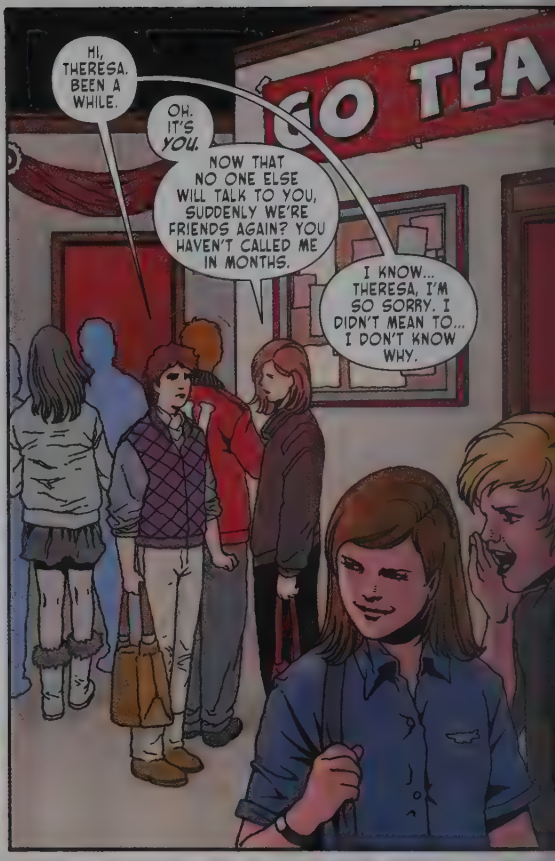
DID YOU HEAR? STEFAN TOTALLY GAVE HER THE NULL SET.
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
YOU KNOW THEY ONLY MOVED HER UP TO VARSITY BECAUSE EVERYBODY FELT SORRY FOR HER.
EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THE POLICE SUSPECTED HER MOTHER OF SETTING THE FIRE.
CAROLINE, THAT'S A TERRIBLE THING TO SAY!
I DIDN'T SAY IT TO BE MEAN, I'M JUST SAYING...
SHOOT THE MESSENGER, ELENA! IT WAS IN THE PAPER. THE INSURANCE COMPANY DIDN'T WANT TO COVER IT AT FIRST. HUGE PAYOUT ON THE POLICY, AND NOW ABBIE CAN BUY A DECENT HANDBAG.
HONESTLY, MARISSA, YOU CAN BE SUCH A BITCH!
THIS WAS WAR.

CAROLINE: But no one believed her.
EEEEEEK!
THAT'S IT! I'VE HAD ENOUGH-- I WANT HER OFF THE SQUAD!
IT WASN'T MY FAULT! SHE MUST HAVE GAINED 15 POUNDS OVER THE HOLIDAYS!
COME ON, ABBIE. TAKE A BREAK.
YOU ALWAYS TAKE HER SIDE!
I'M NOT TAKING ANYONE'S SIDE, BUT WE CAN'T DO THESE STUNTS UNLESS WE TRUST EACH OTHER!
I'VE SAID IT A HUNDRED TIMES ALREADY. I DID NOT HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT GIRL. WHY WON'T ANYONE BELIEVE ME?
SHE'S NOT HIS TYPE.
WELL, NOW, I WOULDN'T WANT TO TALK DOWN MY BROTHER OR ANYTHING. AND I DON'T WANT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION I KNOW FOR SURE WHAT WENT ON THERE... BUT SHE WAS OVER AT THE HOUSE A LOT.

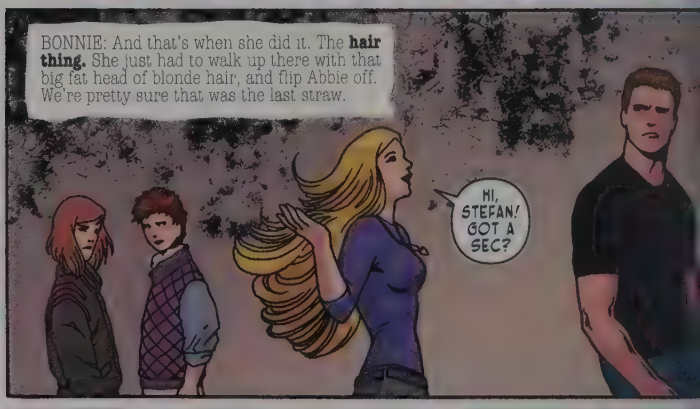
WELL, HELLO, LITTLE CHEERLEADER. YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY!
OH, IT'S YOU.
THINGS NOT WORKING OUT WITH MY LUMP OF A BROTHER?
LIKE YOU CARE! HE BARELY LOOKS AT ME, AND MARISSA GOT ME SUSPENDED FROM THE SQUAD.
I'M SOCIAL POISON!
DON'T PUT YOURSELF DOWN LIKE THAT! YOU'RE GOING ABOUT WINNING MY BROTHER AL WRONG. YOU COME ON TOO STRONG.
MY BROTHER IS...A MAN NOT OF THIS TIME. HE'S OLD FASHIONED. COURTLY. IF YOU WANT TO WIN HIM, YOU HAVE TO WOO HIM.
THAT'S WHEN THINGS GOT SURREAL. I THINK ABBIE SWALLOWED A JANE AUSTEN NOVEL OR SOMETHING, BECAUSE SHE WENT FULL-ON ROMANTIC FICTION.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

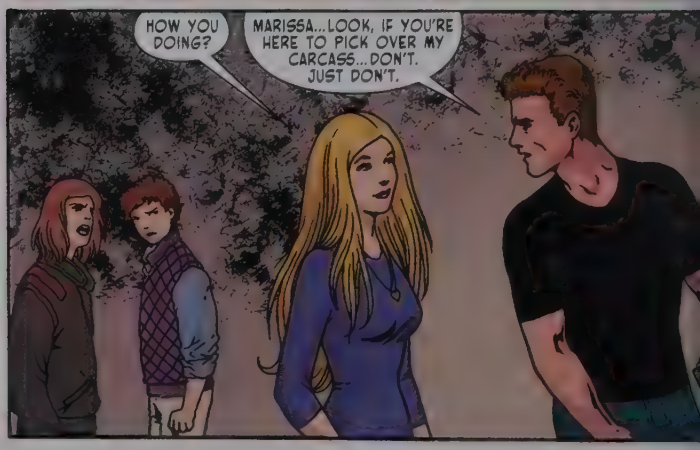
BONNIE: The obligatory box of chocolates.
Love
OH, GOD.
BONNIE: There were hearts. Lots of hearts.
BONNIE: And music.
AND IIIIIIIIIII WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOUUUUUUU!
WHAT IS THAT... HORRIBLE NOISE?
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S CASTRATING A CAT.
THE SOUND OF LOVE, LITTLE BROTHER!
YOU PUT HER UP TO THIS, DIDN'T YOU?
I HATE YOU... SO MUCH.

BONNIE: She was so desperate. For acceptance. And attention. I don't know if it was just Stefan, or her father's death, the rumors...or **what** made her go overboard like that. But she was drowning.


HI, THERESA. BEEN A WHILE.
OH. IT'S *YOU.*
NOW THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL TALK TO YOU, SUDDENLY WE'RE FRIENDS AGAIN? YOU HAVEN'T CALLED ME IN MONTHS.
I KNOW... THERESA, I'M SO SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO... I DON'T KNOW WHY.

I KNOW WHY. YOU TRADED ME IN FOR BRIGHTER, SHINIER FRIENDS.
I'M SORRY. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW SORRY I AM.


BONNIE: And that's when she did it. The **hair thing.** She just had to walk up there with that big fat head of blonde hair, and flip Abbie off. We're pretty sure that was the last straw.
HI, STEFAN! GOT A SEC?


HOW YOU DOING?
MARISSA...LOOK, IF YOU'RE HERE TO PICK OVER MY CARCASS...DON'T. JUST DON'T.

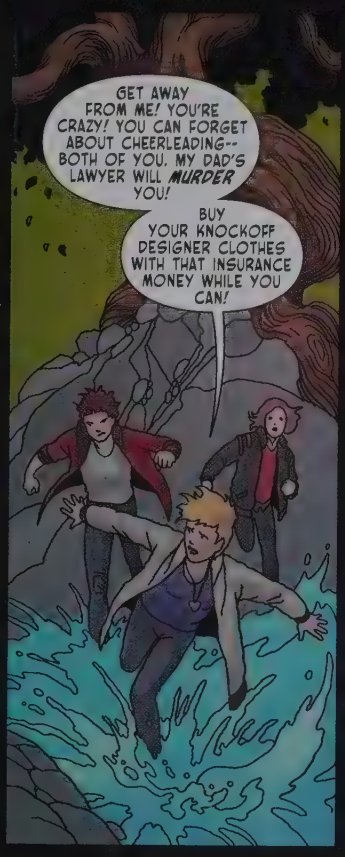
LOOK AT HER! HITTING ON HIM RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU! WHAT A BITCH!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I KNOW. SHE'S BEEN SO MEAN--GOSSIPING AND LYING ABOUT ME!
LOOK, THIS THING YOU HAVE WITH ABBIE, FIGHTING OVER ME LIKE I'M A PIECE OF... WHATEVER. IT'S GOT TO STOP.
CAN YOU HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING?
NO, BUT IF I KNOW MARISSA... OH. LOOK, SHE'S FLIPPING HER HAIR AGAIN! WHAT A PAIR OF DOGS. WHY DON'T THEY JUST GROVEL ON THE FLOOR AND SNIFF EACH OTHER'S BUTTS?!
I'M NOT THE ONE THROWING MYSELF AT YOU!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN INTERESTED IN ME. YOU JUST WANT ME BECAUSE ABBIE DOES. YOUR PULSE DOESN'T EVEN RISE WHEN YOU STAND RIGHT NEXT TO ME.
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW...?
YOU'RE BETTER THAN THIS. YOU BOTH ARE. SHE'S FIGHTING OVER A GUY BECAUSE SHE'S LONELY, AND YOU'RE FIGHTING OVER A GUY BECAUSE YOU CAN.
SHE HAS THAT STUPID LOCKET IN PLACE OF A REAL HEART...

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GROW THE HELL UP?
=GASP= SHE'S COMING OVER HERE!
BONNIE: That should have been the point when everything turned around, when girls acted like women.
BONNIE: That should have been the end of it.
ABBIE... CAN WE TALK?
BONNIE: It was three days before they found her body.

THE IMPORTANT THING...THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...I WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW ABBIE WAS A GOOD GIRL AT HEART.
I BARELY KNEW MARISSA. I BARELY KNEW ABBIE. I WASN'T HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH EITHER OF THEM. I JUST WANT MY HIGH SCHOOL TO BE A NICE PLACE.
Theresa LOPEZ
16 years old
Student
IT WAS HARD FOR ABBIE. EVERYONE SUSPECTED HER RIGHT AWAY. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
IT'S SO UNFAIR. EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT A LYING, BACK-STABBING BITCH ARISSA WAS, AND NOW THEY ACT LIKE SHE'S SOME KIND OF SAINT!
THERESA: I just didn't know what to do.
YES...YES, OFFICER, I'LL COME IN AND MAKE A STATEMENT. CAN I HAVE MY MOTHER THERE WITH ME?
THERESA: We were best friends since we were four years old. I thought I knew everything about her.
DON'T BE AFRAID, HONEY. JUST TELL THE SHERIFF WHAT YOU KNOW.
MARISSA WENT TO SEE STEFAN SALVATORE--THEY HAD A THING GOING ON. THEY HAD SOME KIND OF FIGHT. A REALLY NASTY FIGHT. AND THERESA...WELL, SHE HATED MARISSA, TOO...EITHER ONE OF THEM COULD HAVE DONE IT.
THERESA: There was a time I thought I'd do anything for her.
SHERIFF

THERESA: And one time, I did.
THIS WAS A GREAT IDEA, ABBIE. I HAVEN'T BEEN OUT HERE IN AGES.
A GREAT PLACE TO BURY THE HATCHET, HUH?
I'M GLAD WE HAD A CHANCE TO TALK. I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN SUCH A... NOT A GOOD FRIEND. IT'S JUST...
...I GET TIRED OF EVERYBODY THINKING I BUY WHATEVER I GET. PEOPLE THINK MY DADDY BOUGHT MY WAY ONTO THE SQUAD. AND WHEN YOU MADE THAT CRACK ABOUT ME BUYING STEFAN...I SNAPPED. I'M SO SORRY.
I KNOW YOU'RE SORRY. YOU'RE GOING TO GET A LOT SORRIER.
GRAB HER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU FLIP THAT SKANKY HAIR OF YOURS IN MY DIRECTION EVER AGAIN, YOU CONCEITED COW!
YOU NEED A HAIRCUT! YOU LOOK LIKE A SHEEPDOG!
OW! OW! OW!

YOU LIED ABOUT MY MOTHER! YOU VICIOUS BITCH!
THAT'S ENOUGH, ABBIE!
OH, GOD!


GET AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE CRAZY! YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT CHEERLEADING--BOTH OF YOU. MY DAD'S LAWYER WILL MURDER YOU!
BUY YOUR KNOCKOFF DESIGNER CLOTHES WITH THAT INSURANCE MONEY WHILE YOU CAN!

YOU THINK I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE SQUAD? RAH RAH, LITTLE GIRL!
AGH!
THERESA: Abbie told me we would just cut off a lock or two. Just a little bit. You know, steal the locket with a lock of hair to go with it. A joke.

THERESA: We were just supposed to scare her. That was all! Just scare her!

THERESA: But it got out of hand...
ABBIE... ABBIE, STOP!
≠GLUG... GLUG...≠

PRETEND YOU'RE A FISH.
≠GLUG≠ HELP! HELP ME!

ABBIE, THAT'S ENOUGH!
SHUT UP AND GET ME A ROCK! I WANT TO HOLD HER DOWN!
THERESA: I don't know why I did that...
THERESA: She said if I told anyone, she'd kill me.
THERESA: She said...she said I was **white trash.** That people would blame me...
THERESA: ...she said I'd go to jail...it's her fault! I swear I didn't mean it...

MY DAUGHTER IS NOT SOME KIND OF... MONSTER. EVERYTHING YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT MY GIRL IS A LIE.
I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO LIVE FOR. NO REASON NOT TO TELL YOU THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH.
AND THE TRUTH IS...
...I KILLED MY HUSBAND, AND I KILLED MY DAUGHTER.
I DIDN'T...I LOVED THEM. I REALLY DID. BUT...WE WERE IN SO MUCH TROUBLE. THE KIND OF TROUBLE YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF WITH A BANK LOAN.
NO! HONEY, NO! NOT AGAIN!
I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF MUCH LONGER!
GRAAKKGH!
RUN! JAN, TAKE ABBIE AND RUN!

JAN: We were a perfectly normal family, but my husband was sick. He was never going to get better.
I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS... JAN, I--I HURT SOMEONE LAST NIGHT...KILLED THEM...
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE... PLEASE...PLEASE, JAN...
MOM, WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING, HONEY! YOUR DAD HAD A BAD EPISODE. HE'LL BE FINE. EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.
IF HE COMMITTED SUICIDE, WE WOULDN'T GET THE INSURANCE MONEY. HE DIDN'T WANT TO SUFFER AND HE DIDN'T WANT US TO SUFFER. HE WAS A FIREMAN...HE KNEW WHAT TO DO.

JAN: We took care of it.
JAN: We got the insurance money, and I hoped that a new life would come with it.
JAN: She made the varsity squad, and everyone was so nice to her! For the first time, we had money. We could afford nice things!
BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH... THAT MARISSA. SHE JUST HAD TO POKE AND PUSH. TELLING THOSE STORIES ABOUT US. ABBIE COULDN'T TAKE IT. SHE'S A VERY SENSITIVE GIRL!
JAN: I did it for her. Don't you see? We wanted what was best for her. And for a while...it seemed like everything worked

JAN: And then I found the necklace Marissa's necklace- in Abbie's bedroom.
JAN: And I knew.
MOM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?
THAT'S MINE! GIVE IT TO ME!
OH ABBIE, DON'T LIE!
MARISSA NEVER TOOK THIS OFF--SHE'S HAD IT SINCE SHE WAS SIX! SHE'S FOUND DEAD IN A RIVER, AND THIS SHOWS UP HERE? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
I'M NOT LYING! I BOUGHT IT!
NICE TRUST ISSUES YOU'VE GOT THERE, MOM.
ABBIE!
MARISSA WAS A GOSSIPY BITCH WHO GOT WHAT SHE DESERVED! THERESA DID IT. SHE WAS JEALOUS OF ME BEING ON VARSITY AND EVERYTHING.
IT WASN'T MY FAULT!

MY DAUGHTER WAS A VERY TROUBLED GIRL. SHE WAS ONLY TRYING TO PROTECT ME. MARISSA KEPT RUNNING HER MOUTH, SPREADING RUMORS...

JAN: And there's always a cause and effect. Flowing like tides, back and forth. As sure as the moon will rise.

EEEEEEEEK!

MOM! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? MOM!

OH, BABY, I'M SORRY SO SORRY!

IF YOU HADN'T KILLED MARISSA, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED! KILLING TRIGGERS THE WEREWOLF CURSE YOU INHERITED FROM YOUR FATHER.

IT HAS TO STOP NOW, SWEETIE. IT HAS TO STOP.

JAN: We had a fight. Over the necklace. And Marissa. Abbie fell and hit her head. And I set the house on fire. Again. My daughter was a troubled girl...not a monster

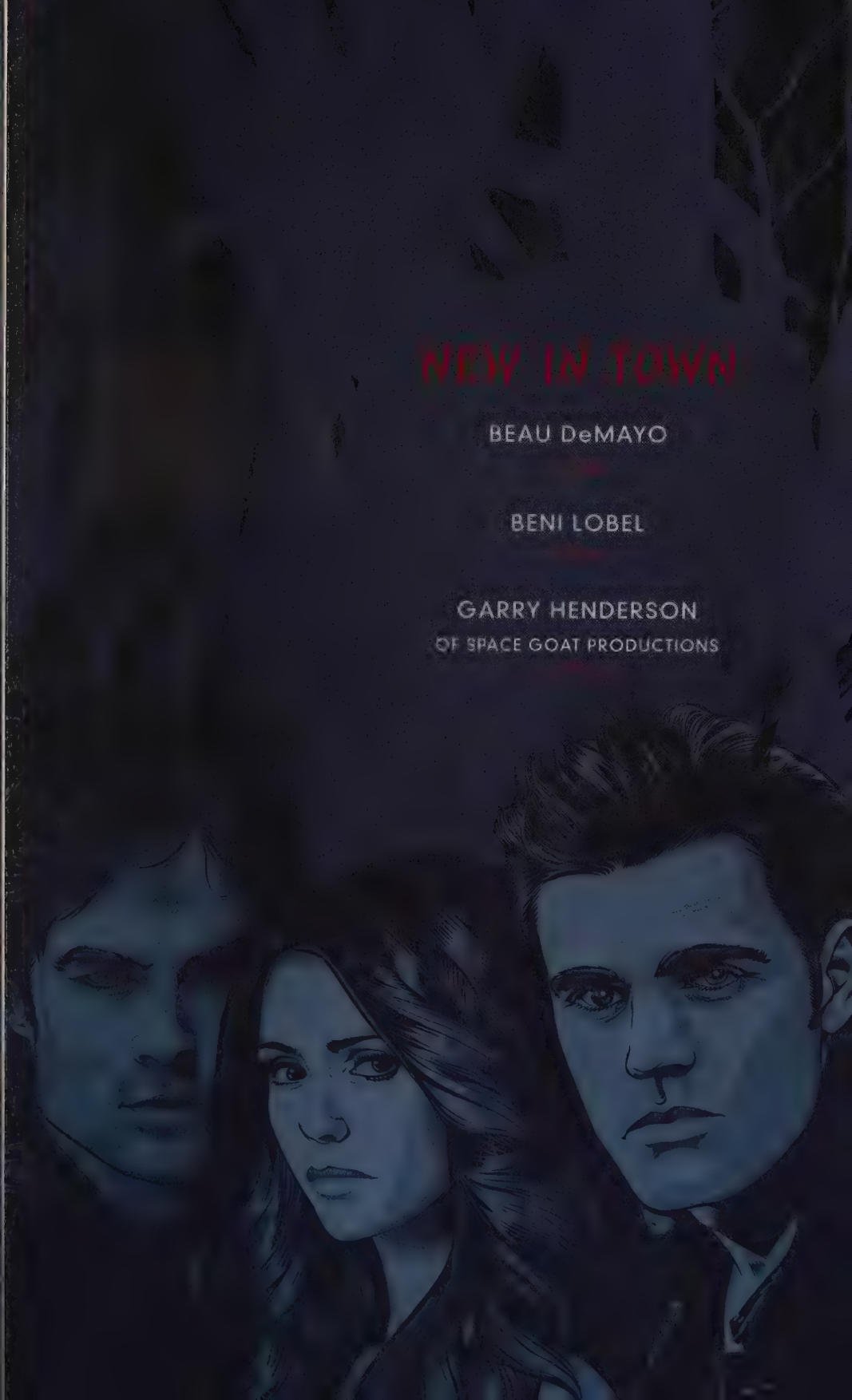
YOU'RE FREE TO GO, MR. SALVATORE. WE'VE GOT A CONFESSION. TWO OF THEM, ACTUALLY.
UH, REALLY? THAT'S GREAT, I MEAN... UM...
S'OKAY. I KNOW THIS MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR YOU...BUT DO YOU MIND IF I SAY...?
SIR?
YOUR BROTHER'S KIND OF AN ASS. I'D WATCH MY BACK AROUND HIM IF I WERE YOU.
OH, YEAH. RIGHT.
YES, SIR?
AND ANOTHER THING...
...WHAT DO YOU USE IN YOUR HAIR?
YOU OKAY?
I GUESS SO. THAT WAS WEIRD.
TRAGIC. ABBIE WAS A KILLER. WHO KNEW?
IRONY ALERT, STEFAN. ALL THE PEOPLE YOU'VE SENT TO THE BONEYARD, AND YOU ALMOST WENT TO JAIL FOR THE DEED YOU DIDN'T DO.
YEAH. FUNNY.
YOU'RE A RIOT, DAMON.
STRANGE. ONE OF THE WORST MURDERS IN MYSTIC FALLS HISTORY, AND THERE WAS NOTHING SUPERNATURAL ABOUT IT. NOT ONE VAMPIRE BITE.
THE END

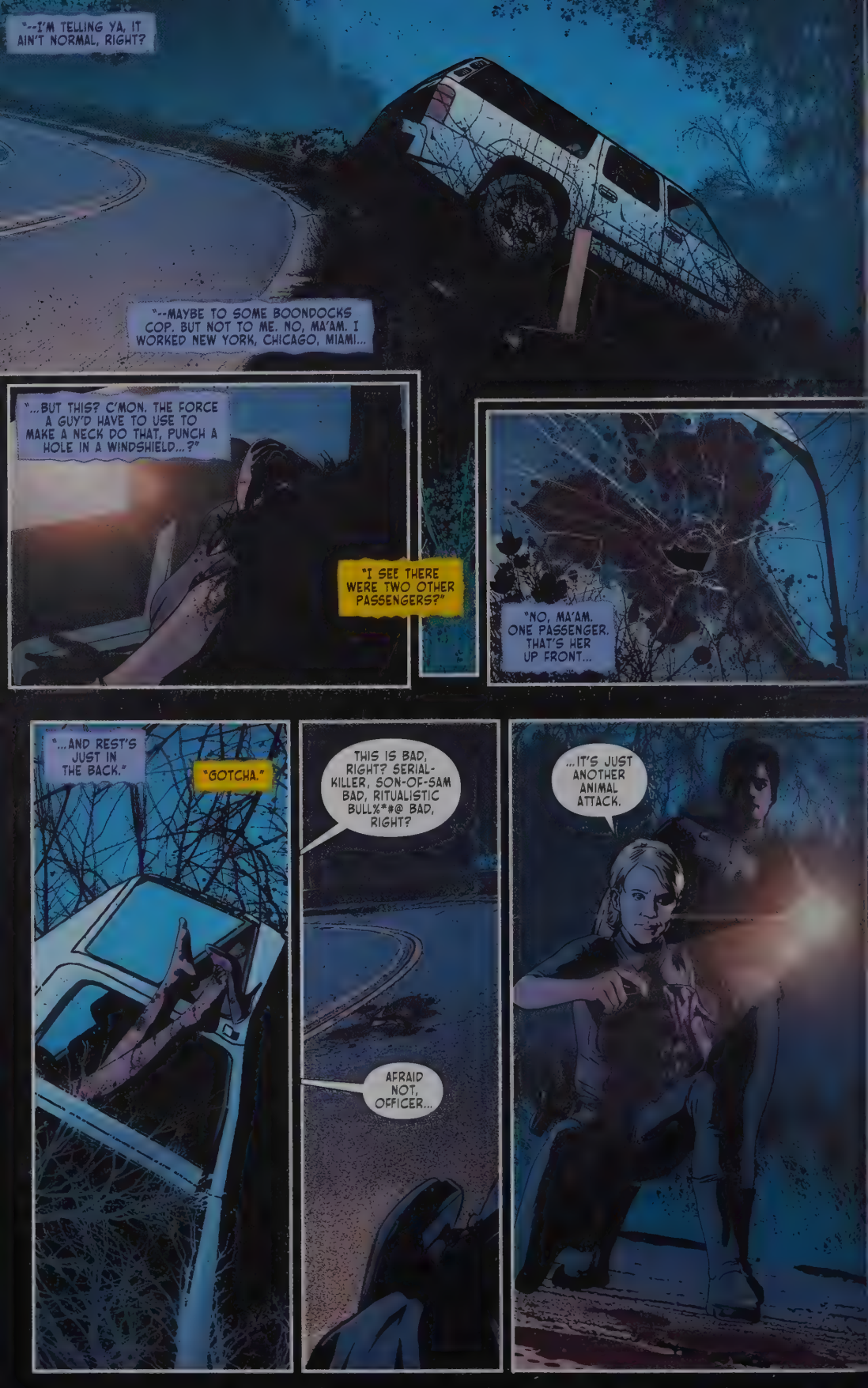
NEW IN TOWN

BEAU DeMAYO

BENI LOBEL

GARRY HENDERSON
OF SPACE GOAT PRODUCTIONS




"--I'M TELLING YA, IT AIN'T NORMAL, RIGHT?
"--MAYBE TO SOME BOONDOCKS COP. BUT NOT TO ME. NO, MA'AM. I WORKED NEW YORK, CHICAGO, MIAMI...
"...BUT THIS? C'MON. THE FORCE A GUY'D HAVE TO USE TO MAKE A NECK DO THAT, PUNCH A HOLE IN A WINDSHIELD...?"
"I SEE THERE WERE TWO OTHER PASSENGERS?"
"NO, MA'AM. ONE PASSENGER. THAT'S HER UP FRONT...
"...AND REST'S JUST IN THE BACK."
"GOTCHA."
THIS IS BAD, RIGHT? SERIAL-KILLER, SON-OF-SAM BAD, RITUALISTIC BULLX*#@ BAD, RIGHT?
AFRAID NOT, OFFICER...
...IT'S JUST ANOTHER ANIMAL ATTACK.

WAS IT ALWAYS THIS SMALL?
MYSTIC GRILL
MYSTIC GRILL
THEY DO SAY YOU CAN NEVER GO HOME AGAIN.
WELL, THE SHOPPING HERE BEATS THE "I'M-ONLY-TRYING-TO-FIND-MYSELF" HIPSTER GROSSNESS BACK AT WHITMORE, SO, SMALL OR NOT...
SOMEHOW, ONE OF YOU COMPELLED ME TO TAG ALONG...
NOPE, YOU'RE JUST A PSYCHO-KILLER EAGERLY TRYING TO IMPRESS HIS GIRLFRIEND'S BEST FRIEND, WHO HAPPENS TO HATE YOUR GUTS...
YEAH, WELL I'M NOT EXACTLY FOND OF YOU EITHER, BARBIE.
LOOK-AT-THAT! WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON! SEE, ELENA? HE AND I, BONDING.
DAY SHOPPING WITH CAROLINE FORBES AND ELENA GILBERT...
...NICE TO SEE SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.
MATT USED TO COME ON MY SHOPPING TRIPS, NO COMPLAINTS.
THAT WAS BECAUSE OF WHERE THEY ENDED.
T.M.I.! T.M.I.!
...STAKE ME NOW.

MATT, ARE THESE THE FRIENDS YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT...?
OH, HEY... THIS IS--THIS IS JESSICA, MY NEW EMPLOYEE...
WHEREVER MATT AND I GO, HE HAS SOME COOL STORY ABOUT ELENA, OR BONNIE, TYLER...
WHEREVER YOU GUYS GO...?
SHE'S NEW IN TOWN. BEEN SHOWING HER AROUND.
ARE YOU STEFAN?!
PLEASE, DAMON.
OH...
TABLE FOUR! SIXTH ROUND IN. ANYWAY, NICE MEETING YOU ALL!
WHAT THE HELL WAS SHE "OHH-ING"?
SHE'S NICE.
HER NAME IS JESSICA?
CALLING IT: VAMPIRE. NO GIRL'S THAT HOT AND STILL ALIVE.
GUYS, SHE'S NICE. SO GIVE HER A CHANCE, OTHERWISE, YOUR CHECK'S ON YOU.
HEY!
CASE IN POINT.
WHO STILL NAMES THEIR KID JESSICA?
"I'M SORRY, HONEY, I DON'T SEE WHAT'S WRONG."

HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING! HE WAS TOTALLY BEING SHADY. NOT A TEXT, AN E-MAIL, A CALL...
...WHY ARE ALL MY EXES SO COMMUNICATIONALLY-CHALLENGED?
HONEY, THEY'RE MEN.
AND MAYBE BE HAPPY FOR MATT. IT'S GOOD FOR HIM TO HAVE A BIT OF NORMALCY IN HIS LIFE. IT MUST BE HARD BEING THE ONLY, YOU KNOW...
WHAT? THE ONLY NON-DEAD, NON-CANINE, NON-HUNTER, NON-WITCH PEEP AMONG US?
ALL UNITS. SIGNAL SEVEN. SIGNAL SEVEN AVAILABLE UNITS PLEASE REPORT.
DAMMIT!
WE'VE BEEN HAVING A RASH OF ANIMAL ATTACKS.
NOT THE FURRY KIND.
OH, I'LL TOTALLY GO WITH--
NO, JUST ENJOY YOUR NIGHT. MFPD'S BEEN DOING A PRETTY GOOD JOB HOLDING UP AGAINST ALL THINGS SUPERNATURAL AND FANGED SINCE YOU GUYS WENT TO COLLEGE.
"WHAT IF DAMON'S RIGHT?"

I THINK HE WAS JOKING.
WE HAVE NEW ANIMAL ATTACKS AND WE HAVE A NEW GIRL IN TOWN. WHEN'S THERE EVER BEEN A THING CALLED "COINCIDENCE" IN MYSTIC FALLS?
NOT TO HAVE ANOTHER BONDING MOMENT, BUT VAMPIRE BARBIE'S GOT A POINT.
WOULDN'T MATT KNOW?
NOT IF HE'S UNDER COMPULSION.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO, NANCY DREW?
I HAD TO ASK.
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT SEEMS PRETTY NORMAL. THOUGH, HAVE I EVER HAD A NORMAL DATE...?
WHAT WAS THAT?
A RARE VINTAGE FROM THE SALVATORE CELLARS--A LEFTOVER WINE-VERVAIN MIXTURE DAD LOVED USING TO WEED OUT THE EVIL VAMPS.
OH, GOD, I THINK I'M ACTUALLY IMPRESSED.
SHE REJECTED THE WINE. BINGO. VERDICT'S IN.

OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE, GET A ROOM--
WHAT? SO SHE CAN BITE HIM THERE?!
WE HAVE TO WARN HIM--
BETTER HURRY UP...

...LOOKS LIKE DINNER'S ABOUT TO BE SERVED.

REALLY?

GET SOME CLASS!

...YOU AREN'T A VAMPIRE, ARE YOU?
MYSTIC FALLS IS *OUR* TURF NOW. GO BACK TO SCHOOL.

I'VE BEEN A VAMPIRE FOR A CENTURY OR SO NOW. SOMETHING TELLS ME...
ARGH!
...YOU'RE NEW AT THIS.
CRACK

AHHEEEEEE!
YOU SAW NOTHING. YOU JUST MOVED TO MYSTIC FALLS. THE PLACE SUCKS, AND YOU'RE ACTUALLY THINKING ABOUT LEAVING. NOW, GO. OH, WAIT--
--BLONDE GUYS?
THEY'RE REALLY NOT YOUR TYPE.
MATT, I AM SO ABSOLUTELY SORRY--
NO, CARE-- DON'T YOU GET IT? YOU GUYS HAVE MOONSTONES, AND DOPPLEGANGERS, MAGICAL KNIVES, CENTURY-OLD LOVE CRAP...
...I HAVE A MINIMUM WAGE JOB IN A TOWN I'LL PROBABLY NEVER LEAVE. I JUST WANTED TO DO DINNER AND A MOVIE WITH A PRETTY GIRL...
...DO YOU GUYS EVEN KNOW WHAT NORMAL IS ANYMORE?

WHEN LUCY MET JERRY
YOU KNOW OUR TWO GIRLS WOULD'VE BOTH GONE ALL BAD-VAMP WITHOUT GUYS LIKE YOU?
...
I GOT US POPCORN.
THANKS.
RYAN GOSLING'S IN THIS, RIGHT? LOVE THAT GUY...
POP
the END

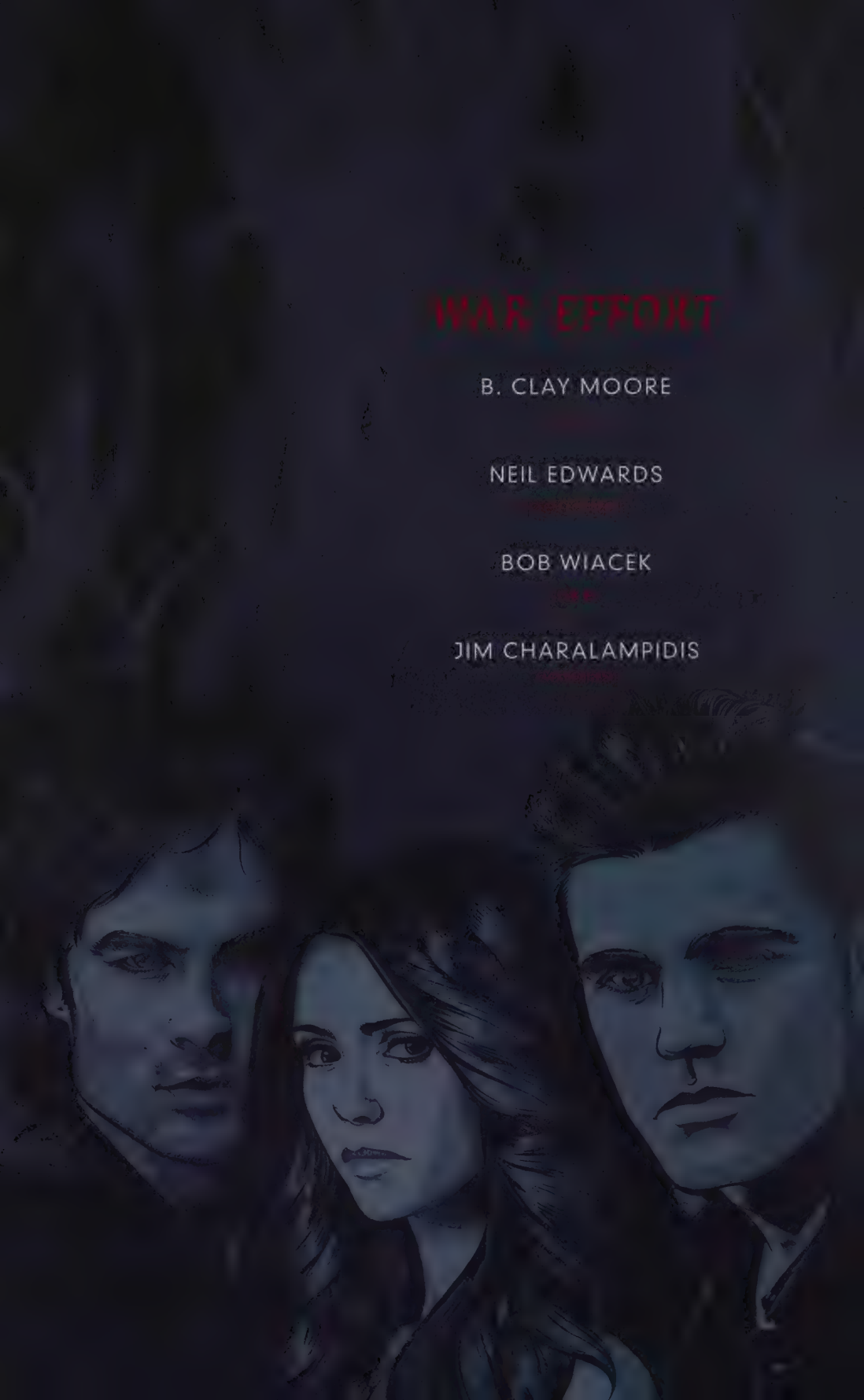
WAR EFFORT

B. CLAY MOORE

NEIL EDWARDS

BOB WIACEK

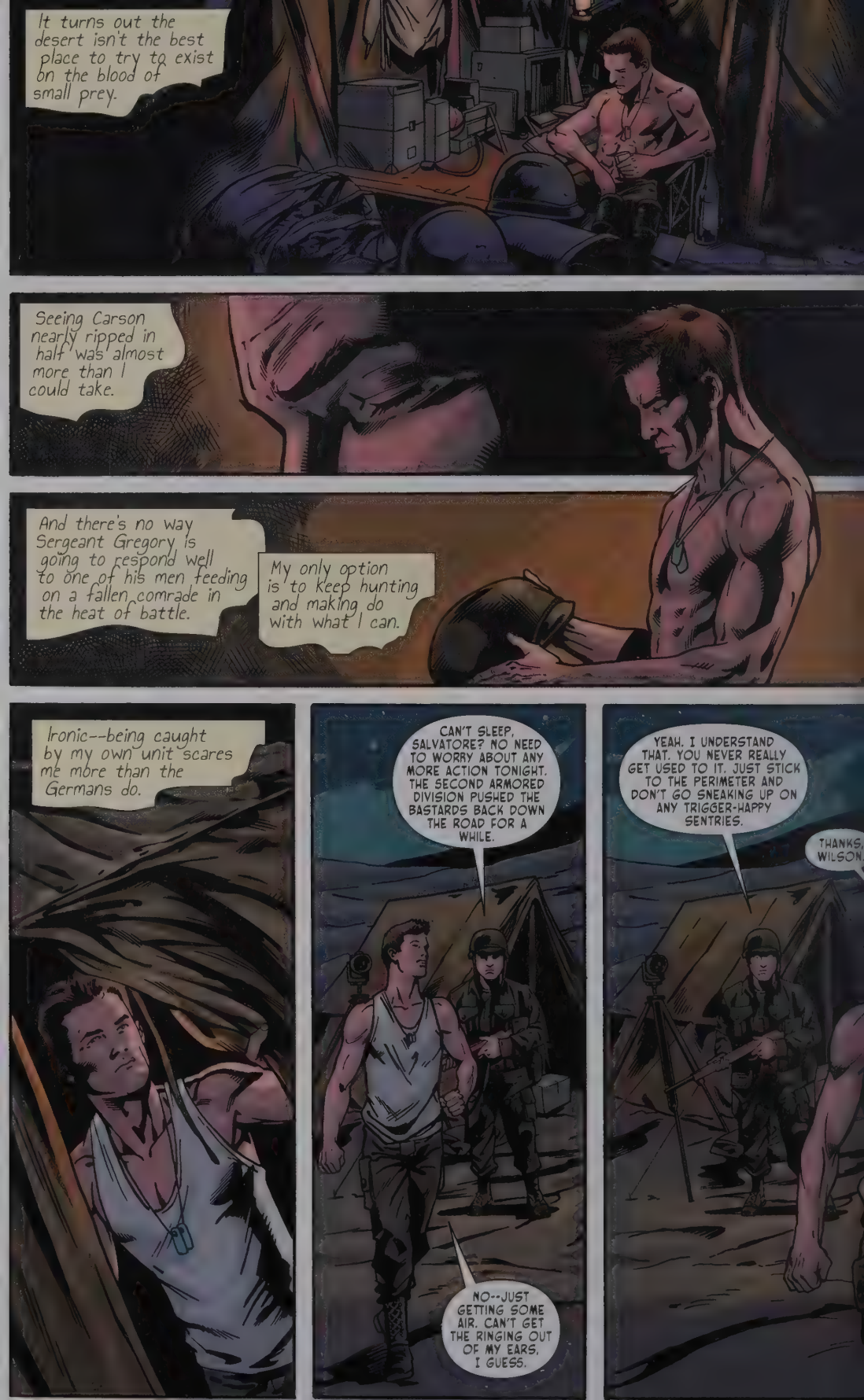
JIM CHARALAMPIDIS



CHICAGO, 1862.
SO THIS REALLY MAKES SENSE TO YOU, LITTLE BROTHER?
IT REALLY DOES, DAMON. ON SEVERAL LEVELS.
I NEED TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH ALL THE ROTTEN THINGS THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER IF I'M SERIOUS ABOUT HANGING ONTO WHATEVER HUMANITY I HAVE LEFT. AND, AS STUPID AS IT MAY SOUND TO YOU--
--THIS IS A WAR THAT NEEDS TO BE FOUGHT.
YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT DOES SOUND STUPID.
I KNOW THESE THINGS DON'T MAKE SENSE TO YOU, BUT I'VE SEEN ENOUGH TO KNOW THERE ARE THINGS WORTH DEFENDING. AND, YEAH, MAYBE THERE IS A PART OF ME THAT THINKS I OWE IT TO MY COUNTRY TO PITCH IN.
OKAY, OKAY.
GET THAT, STEFAN. NOT A COMPLETE ISTER. I REMEMBER EELING THAT WAY K IN 1862. AND I'M T GOING TO TELL YOU YOU'RE WRONG.
I JUST WONDER IF YOU'VE THOUGHT ABOUT EXACTLY HOW DIFFICULT THIS IS GOING TO BE FOR--WELL, FOR ONE OF US?

KA-BOOM
CARSON!
UUUH... SALVATORE... HELP-- HELP ME.
I--I DON'T--
SALVATORE! PULL CARSON OUT OF THERE AND FALL BACK!
COME ON, PRIVATE. WE CAN DO THIS.
OHHH...

SALVATORE! GET DOWN, DAMN IT! YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOUR HEAD BLOWN OFF!
THANKS, SARGE. I GUESS I JUST GOT-- DISTRACTED BY THE SHELLING.
WELL, STAY LOW UNTIL IT STOPS, KID. HOW BAD IS CARSON?
HE'S-- BLEEDING PRETTY BADLY. A LOT OF BLOOD.


It turns out the desert isn't the best place to try to exist on the blood of small prey.
Seeing Carson nearly ripped in half was almost more than I could take.
And there's no way Sergeant Gregory is going to respond well to one of his men feeding on a fallen comrade in the heat of battle.
My only option is to keep hunting and making do with what I can.
Ironic--being caught by my own unit scares me more than the Germans do.
CAN'T SLEEP, SALVATORE? NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ANY MORE ACTION TONIGHT. THE SECOND ARMORED DIVISION PUSHED THE BASTARDS BACK DOWN THE ROAD FOR A WHILE.
NO--JUST GETTING SOME AIR. CAN'T GET THE RINGING OUT OF MY EARS, I GUESS.
YEAH. I UNDERSTAND THAT. YOU NEVER REALLY GET USED TO IT. JUST STICK TO THE PERIMETER AND DON'T GO SNEAKING UP ON ANY TRIGGER-HAPPY SENTRIES.
THANKS, WILSON.

I may not be at full strength, but it's easy enough to slip past sleepy guards.
s so beautiful t here. Hard to lieve there's a war ging across the ntinent.
So I guess it's time I did my part for the war effort.

VAS?
MEIN GOTT!
SHHHH.

WER SIND SIE?
NO, NO.
I'LL TAKE THAT.
HEY!
STOP! STOPPEN!
My German is rusty. But--
STOPPEN SIE ZU KÄMPFEN. ENTSPANNEN SIE SICH.

GOOD. I NEED YOUR HELP. BUT WHAT I REALLY NEED--
--IS THIS.
God--human blood. It's been too long. But--
UNNNH.
ALMOST--TOO MUCH. IT'S SO EASY TO LOSE CONTROL. BUT I CAN'T--CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

(TAKE THIS. NOW, I NEED YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR.)*
*TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN.
(I JUST NEED YOU TO WALK BACK TO YOUR CAMP, AS IF YOU WERE RETURNING FROM PATROL.)
This may be the dumbest idea I've ever had...

(EH? THAT LOOKS LIKE SPANGENBERG.)*
(HE ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE BACK FOR ANOTHER TWO HOURS. CAPTAIN WON'T BE HAPPY.)
*TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN.
(WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?)
HUH?
(HERMAN? HOW DID I GET?)
(COME. LET'S GET YOU SOME COFFEE. THAT MIGHT STIR YOUR SENSES.)
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT DAMON WOULD THINK IF HE COULD SEE ME NOW.

I KNOW IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY, BUT WHO IS WAR EASY FOR, ANYWAY?
WELL, IT MIGHT BE ESPECIALLY HARD FOR A VAMPIRE WHO TENDS TO LOSE HIS HEAD WHEN HE GETS A LITTLE TOO MUCH OF THE RED STUFF. YOU'RE LIKELY TO BE LITERALLY SWIMMING IN BLOOD OVER THERE, STEFAN.
I'M PRETTY GOOD AT HANDLING THINGS THESE DAYS, DAMON. BUT I APPRECIATE THE CONCERN.
JUST LOOKING OUT FOR MY BABY BROTHER. I NEVER REALIZED YOU HAD THIS BURNING DESIRE TO BE A WAR HERO.
I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT. ONCE I'M OVER THERE, I'LL JUST BE ANOTHER GUY IN UNIFORM.

(WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU OUT THERE, CORPORAL? WERE YOU STABBED, OR--?)*
(I DON'T KNOW. HONESTLY, I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING BEFORE I ARRIVED AT THE CAMP.)
*TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN
(I DON'T SEE IT NOW. BUT I THOUGHT I DETECTED SOMETHING MOVING OUT THERE.)
(IT SEEMS IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO APPROACH US WITHOUT BEING NOTICED. THAT'S THE ENTIRE POINT OF THIS LOCATION.)
(WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, GENTLEMEN? DO WE NEED TO ALERT THE CAMP?)
(IT'S SPANGENBERG, LIEUTENANT. HE RETURNED EARLY FROM RECONNAISSANCE, WITH A STRANGE INJURY. SO FAR, IT SEEMS HE RETURNED ALONE.)
(I SEE. I'LL SPEAK WITH SPANGENBERG AND SEE WHAT INSIGHT HE HAS BEFORE WE ROUST THE MEN.)
(GOD, I HATE THE NIGHTS HERE--)
(WAIT-- HANS--I SEE SOMETHING--)

(WELL, WHAT IS IT?)
(DAMN IT, I THOUGHT I--)
VAS--
UH.
CRACK
HUHH!

(CORPORAL--THE MEN TELL ME YOU RAN INTO DIFFICULTY WHILE ON PATROL?)
(THAT WOULD SEEM TO BE THE CASE, BUT HE HAS LITTLE MEMORY OF--)
URK!
AH!
N-NEIN...
DAMN IT.
(HELP!)
(WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?)

(SHOOT HIM! SHOOT!)
KRAK
UUH!
(WHO IS HE, SPANGENBERG? HOW DID HE GET THROUGH?)
(SHOOT HIM AGAIN! THE MAN ISN'T HUMAN!)
(THE MAN IS DEAD, CORPORAL..)

(HE'S--!)
(STOP HIM!)
(HE'S ALIVE.)
IF I MAY--
BRRRRAPPP

God help me. I need their blood to survive this.
But I don't know if I can trust myself. Damon was right.
It's one thing--to wipe out an enemy platoon. But even my own unit might not be--
Maybe--
--Ah-ha.
Let's see if we can make this work for a while.

Jesus. It's all I can do not to set up camp here and feed for days.
FALL OUT, SALVATORE! THE GERMANS AREN'T WAITING FOR YOU TO CATCH UP ON YOUR BEAUTY SLEEP.
SURE THING, SARGE.

AT EASE, LADS. IT LOOKS FOR ALL THE WORLD AS IF SOMEONE'S BEEN THROUGH HERE BEFORE US.
COR. LOOK AT THAT.
SOMEONE DID A NUMBER ON THESE POOR BASTARDS, ALL RIGHT.

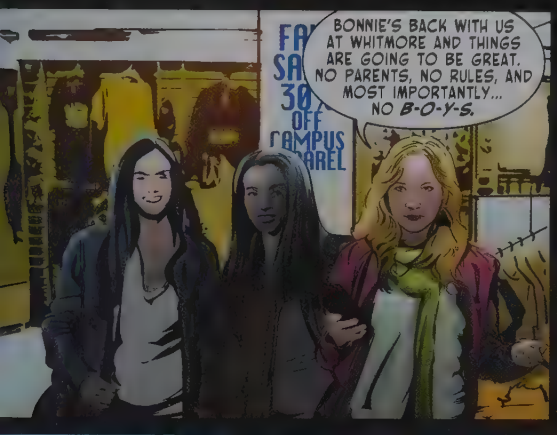
WOULDN'T WE HAVE HEARD A REPORT ABOUT THIS, SIR? SURELY THEY WERE AMBUSHED DURING THE NIGHT.
ONE WOULD THINK, DAVIES. WITH THE SAND BLOWING AROUND, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PICK UP THE TRACKS OF WHOEVER DID THIS, BUT--
--QUITE THE SAVAGE ASSAULT, I'D SAY.
THIS MAN'S NECK WAS SNAPPED. NOT A BULLET WOUND ON HIM.
WELL, ONE THING'S FOR DEAD CERTAIN. WHOEVER TOOK THESE MEN OUT--
"--I'M GLAD THEY'RE ON OUR SIDE."
THE E

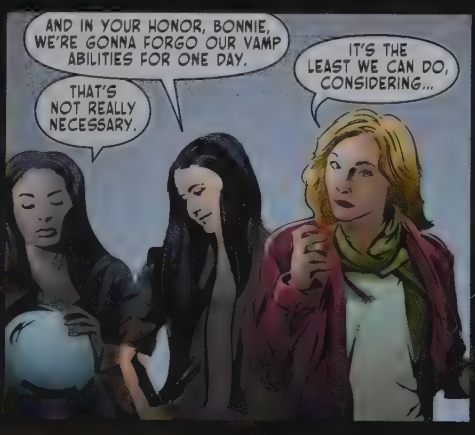
FRAT PACK

MATTHEW D'AMBROSIO,
MISSY WOODWARD
& JEANE WONG

DENNIS CALERO

THE VAMPIRE DIARIES Digital Chapters #1
cover by Dennis Calero

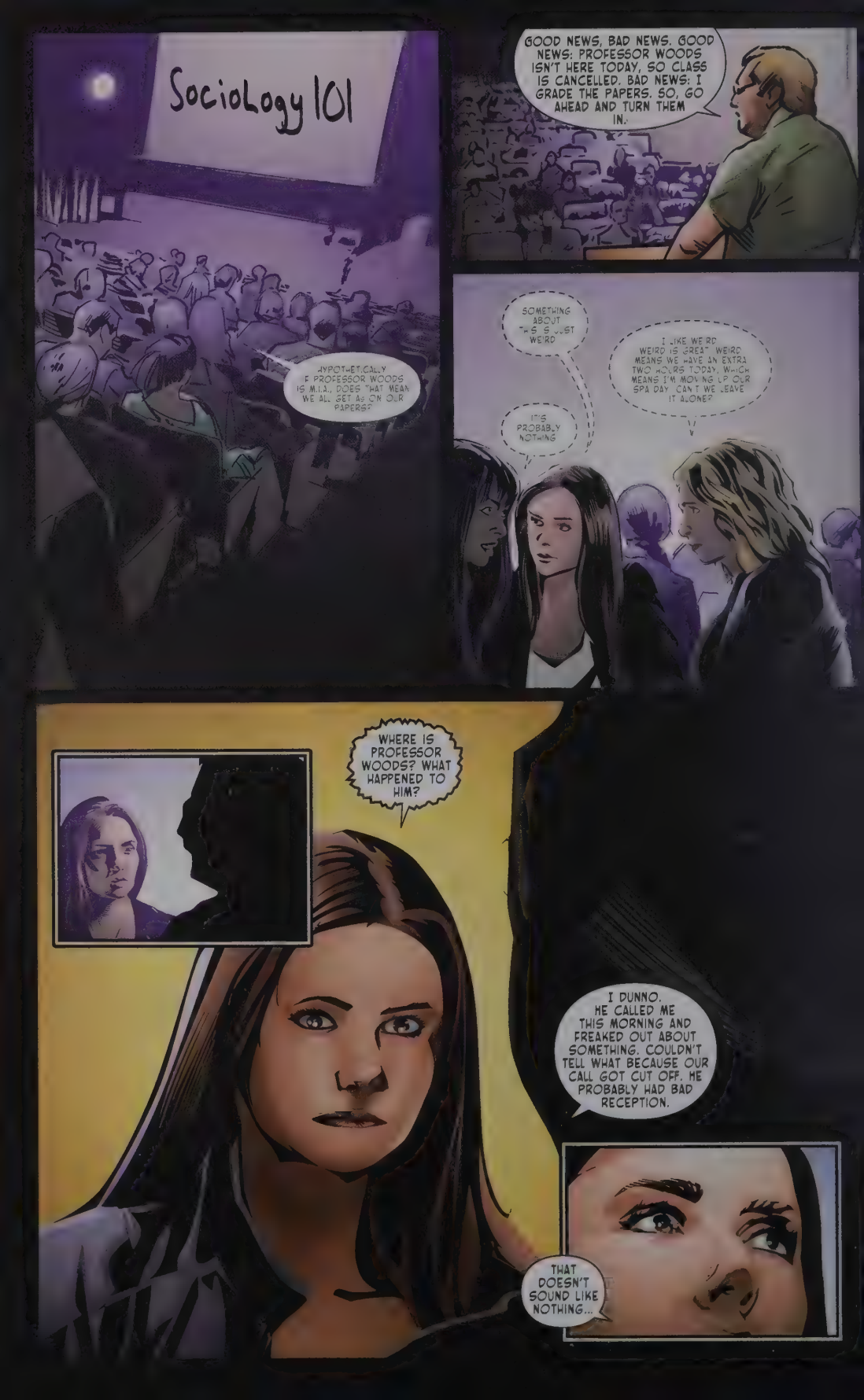

BONNIE'S BACK WITH US AT WHITMORE AND THINGS ARE GOING TO BE GREAT. NO PARENTS, NO RULES, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY... NO B-O-Y-S.


AND IN YOUR HONOR, BONNIE, WE'RE GONNA FORGO OUR VAMP ABILITIES FOR ONE DAY.
IT'S THE LEAST WE CAN DO, CONSIDERING...
THAT'S NOT REALLY NECESSARY.

...THAT YOU'RE NO LONGER A WITCH, AND THEREFORE, TOTALLY POWER-LESS. NO OFFENSE.
CAN I SEE YOUR I.D.?

YOU'RE GOING TO DO US A SOLID AND LET US BUY EVERYTHING HERE.
PAPER OR PLASTIC?

AAAND WE'LL START OUR NON-SUPERNATURAL DAY RIGHT NOW. PROMISE.


Sociology 101
HYPOTHETICALLY IF PROFESSOR WOODS IS M.I.A., DOES THAT MEAN WE ALL GET AS ON OUR PAPERS?
GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS. GOOD NEWS: PROFESSOR WOODS ISN'T HERE TODAY, SO CLASS IS CANCELLED. BAD NEWS: I GRADE THE PAPERS. SO, GO AHEAD AND TURN THEM IN.
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS IS JUST WEIRD
I LIKE WEIRD WEIRD IS GREAT WEIRD MEANS WE HAVE AN EXTRA TWO HOURS TODAY, WHICH MEANS I'M MOVING UP OUR SPA DAY. CAN'T WE LEAVE IT ALONE?
IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING
WHERE IS PROFESSOR WOODS? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
I DUNNO. HE CALLED ME THIS MORNING AND FREAKED OUT ABOUT SOMETHING. COULDN'T TELL WHAT BECAUSE OUR CALL GOT CUT OFF. HE PROBABLY HAD BAD RECEPTION.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE NOTHING...

NOT TOO LATE TO GO TO THE SPA.
FOCUS, CAROLINE.
I GUESS WE KNOW WHY CLASS WAS CANCELLED...
CREAK
THAT'S NOT A VAMPIRE BITE...
THAT CAME FROM A WEREWOLF.
WHOA. THERE'S ENOUGH WOLFSBANE HERE TO SUBDUE AN ENTIRE WEREWOLF PACK.
A PACK? THIS CAN'T BE GOOD...
LOOKS LIKE OUR NON-SUPERNATURAL DAY JUST BECAME A WHOLE LOT OF SUPERNATURAL.

I FEEL LIKE A COLLEGE CLICHÉ. TELL ME AGAIN WHY WE'RE IN THESE THINGS?
BECAUSE THE ONLY LEAD WE HAVE IS AN OMEGA PSI PARTY FLYER FROM PROFESSOR WOODS' OFFICE.
ANGELS & DEMONS party @ your Omega Psi guys' place. TONIGHT @ 9pm Be there or be dumb.
WHATEVER WE DO, WE HAVE TO DO IT FAST BECAUSE THAT MOON IS INSANELY CLOSE TO BEING FULL. AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WITH A FULL MOON AND A PACK OF WEREWOLVES...

CHARMING.
THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A SUSPICIOUS CREEPY CLOSED-OFF BASEMENT OR ANYTHING.
CAROLINE, WHILE BONNIE AND I GO DOWNSTAIRS, CAN YOU DISTRACT ANYONE WHO MIGHT TRY TO COME DOWN?
UGH. WHY AM I ALWAYS THE DISTRACTION?
BECAUSE DESPITE MY NON-MAGIC-BUT-I'M-AN-ANCHOR STATUS, I'M PREPARED. MY MOM TAUGHT WHICH HERBS CAN SUBDUE A WOLF, HUMAN, OR WHATEVER COMES OUR WAY--AND I GRABBED THEM FROM THE PROFESSOR'S STASH.
PLUS, YOU SEEM TO HAVE A KNACK WITH WEREWOLVES.

EANWHILE...
I HAVE TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOU TO SEE IF YOU'VE EARNED THAT HALO. KEEP DRINKING AND I'LL BE BACK.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? HAVE I BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE?
WHY GO DOWN THERE WHEN I'M UP HERE?

I CAN HEAR CAROLINE UPSTAIRS. WE'RE IN THE CLEAR. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
THERE'S NOTHING DOWN HERE.
GREAT, A DEAD END. LET'S GET UPSTAIRS AND RELIEVE CAROLINE FROM FLIRT DUTY.
WHERE IS SHE?
MAYBE SHE GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE ROLE OF BEING A SWEET BUT SASSY ANGEL. SHE IS A DRAMA MAJOR AFTER ALL. LET ME CALL HER.
RRING RING
SOUNDS LIKE HER PHONE IS AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE.
FOUND THE PHONE, BUT WHERE'S CAROLINE?

NO SIGN OF HER UPSTAIRS.
SHE'S NOT DOWNSTAIRS EITHER. WHERE COULD SHE BE?
MAYBE I CAN HELP.
DON'T WORRY, YOUR FRIEND IS SAFE WITH ME.

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH HER?
I DON'T THINK YOU WANT TO MESS WITH MY FRIEND.
TSK. TSK. TSK. CAROLINE IS OKAY. WELL, SORTA.
WHERE AM I? I SWEAR, IF YOU DON'T LET ME GO I'LL BITE THAT SMIRK OFF YOUR FACE--=GASP=
BOOM
YOU CAN THANK PROFESSOR WOODS FOR THE WOLFSBANE. NOW WHERE'S CAROLINE?

LET'S HOPE THE WOLVES ARE CHAINED SOMEWHERE DURING THE FULL MOON.
WHAT TOOK SO LONG?
GRRR
TYING YOU DOWN WITH VERVAIN ROPES. NICE GUY, THAT SMITTY IS.
DO YOU THINK THEY'LL KNEEL IF WE OFFER THEM A TREAT?
I THINK WE'RE THE TREAT...

WE'RE OUTNUMBERED
I GOT THIS. YOU GUYS GO FOR HELP.
THINK IT'S TIME WE CALL ANIMAL CONTROL. YOU'RE ALL LOOKING KINDA MANGY.
GROWWL
SO WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE? RUN!
GRRR
WE'LL COME BACK FOR HER. I PROMISE.
C'MON, YOU FLEA-BAGS. THINK YOU CAN OUTRUN ME?

SO YOU JUST LEFT HER THERE?
SHE LED THE WOLVES AWAY. SHE DISTRACTED THEM.
CAROLINE SAVED US. BUT WE NEED HELP TO FIND HER. THEY'RE SMART AND THEY'VE PROBABLY MOVED HER BY NOW.
SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. YOU FOUND YOUR PROFESSOR DEAD, THEN DECIDED TO GO TO A PARTY WHERE YOUR BEST FRIEND GOT WOLF-JACKED.
GREAT. I'D SAY YOU'RE WINNING AT THIS COLLEGE THING.
WHAT DAMON MEANS IS, OF COURSE WE'LL COME HELP.
BUT FIRST, A QUICK PIT STOP TO PICK UP SOME DOG TOYS.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL RETRACE OUR STEPS TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY TOOK CAROLINE.
AND WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET ENOUGH WEAPONS TO TAKE DOWN A PACK OF WOLVES?
OBVIOUSLY, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DOING YOUR HOMEWORK, LITTLE GILBERT.

ANYONE UP FOR A TRIP TO THE STONER PIT? CLASSROOMS AREN'T REALLY MY THING.
ALARIC'S SECRET SPOT. HE HID ALL SORTS OF GOODIES IN HERE.
I'D SAY THAT'S ENOUGH WOLFSBANE TO TAKE DOWN ALL OF THE APPALACHIANS.
THIS BOTTLE IS OLDER THAN YOU ARE.
GO FIND A JUICE BOX OR SOMETHING.
DAMON.
WE'RE NOT ALONE.

WHO'S THERE?
CALM DOWN, OLD MAN.
I KNOW YOU--
YEAH, YEAH, YOU KNOW ME. I REMEMBER FROM THE LAST TIME WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER.
WE GOTTA GO, STEFAN.
YOU DIDN'T SEE US. WE WERE NEVER HERE.
I THINK YOU JUST PASSED THE SPEED LIMIT.
CALM DOWN, STEFAN. SPEED LIMITS ARE MORE LIKE SPEED SUGGESTIONS AND WE'VE GOT SOMEWHERE TO BE.

ANY CHANCE YOU GUYS WANT TO TAKE A BREAK AND CHASE YOUR OWN TAILS?
GRR
GUESS NOT--
CRUNCH
A SHORT TIME LATER...
AND TO THINK I ONCE FOUND YOU MARGINALLY ATTRACTIVE.
NOW THE REAL FUN CAN BEGIN...

MEANWHILE...
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF LEADS, ELENA. I'M GETTING WORRIED.
WE GOT HER. THEY WON'T FIND HER.
MEH, THEY'LL BE ANCIENT HISTORY IF THEY TRY.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
DID YOU HEAR THAT? WHO'S THERE?
AND I THINK I KNOW WHERE THEY'RE HOLDING HER. C'MON.
SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR BACKUP BEFORE WE STORM THE CASTLE?
IF JUST ONE OF THOSE WOLVES BITES CAROLINE, SHE'LL DIE. I'M NOT WAITING AROUND FOR THAT.
THEY'VE GOT CAROLINE, BON. I'LL TEXT THE GUYS TO LET THEM KNOW.
RECENT CALLS
Damon
Stefan
mobile

LET'S TRY TO TAKE IT EASY ON THE VAN HELSING WOLF WEAPONS. EVEN WITH EVERYTHING WE TOOK FROM THE LOCKER, IT MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH.
WHITMORE COLLEGE
ARBORETUM
GUYS, WE GOT INCOMING!
CRAAAAACK
YOU IDIOTS JUST DON'T GIVE UP, DO YOU?

ELENA SAYS THE FRAT HAS CAROLINE. SHE AND BONNIE ARE ON THEIR WAY TO FIND HER.
YOU'RE GONNA BLEED OUT. UNLESS YOU GIVE US SOME ANSWERS ABOUT CAROLINE.
HOW IS THIS HELPING? HE'S GONNA DIE BEFORE HE CAN TELL US ANYTHING.
PRIVATE CONVERSATION. LET THE ADULTS HANDLE THIS ONE.
SO ELENA'S TEXTING YOU LEADS NOW?
MAYBE SHE THOUGHT STEFAN WOULD LEAVE LESS OF A BODY COUNT.
GOTTA ADMIT, SHE KNOWS ME PRETTY WELL.
I CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.
JUST TELL US WHERE CAROLINE IS.

ANCIENT HISTORY. I GET IT.
SHOULDN'T WE TELL THE GUYS WHERE WE ARE?
I'VE BEEN TRYING.
ELENA...
No Servic
BEEP

GIVE US OUR FRIEND BACK!
COME ON IN AND GET HER.
ELENA, STOP!
CAREFUL, ELENA. THIS GUY WANTS A FIGHT? HE'S GOT ONE COMIN'.
OOH, YOU BROUGHT MORE FRIENDS.
THIS PLACE IS A VAMPIRE DEATH TRAP. YOU HUMANS ARE GONNA HAVE TO GET THIS RESCUE STARTED.

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE DIVERSION?
LET'S GET THIS PUPPY PARTY STARTED.
CAROLINE, HOLD ON!

WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE SMOKE CLEARS.
WHUMPP
I HOPE YOU BLOODSUCKERS DIDN'T COME LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME. WE'VE GOT BIGGER PLANS THAN A MIXER WITH SOME VAMPS.

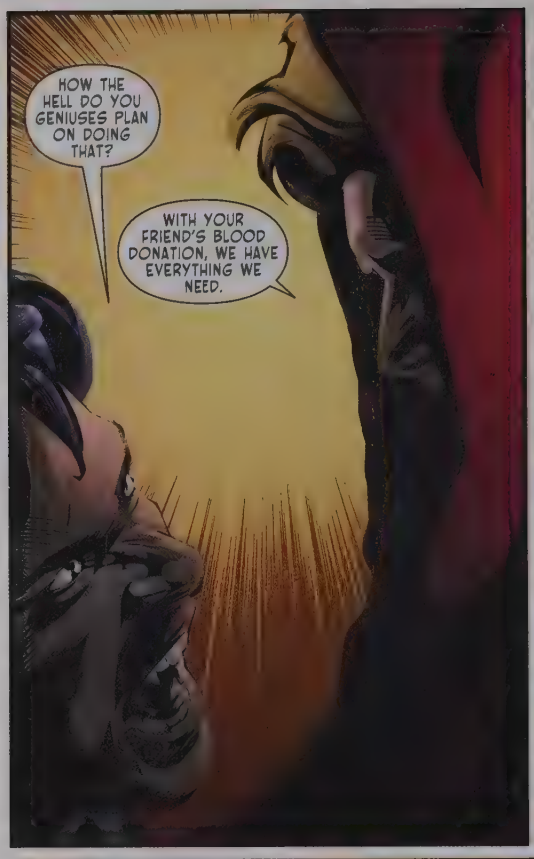
SIC 'EM.
GRRRR
AARR
I'M STARTING TO THINK YOU'RE THE WHOLE PACKAGE.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE THIS.
THEY TOOK ALMOST ALL OF MY BLOOD. I NEED A KEG, NOT A JUICE BOX.

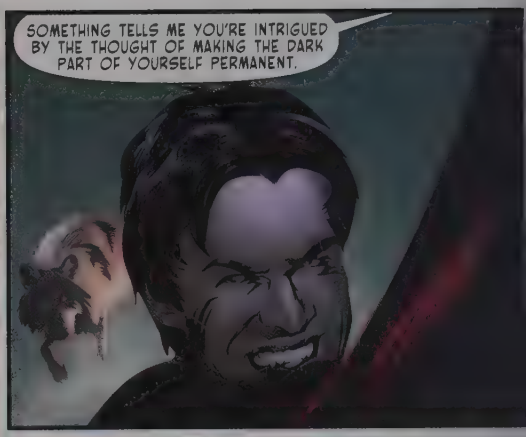
WHAT'S WITH THE NECKLACE?
LITTLE HELP, GUYS. WE GOT A RUNNER.
LEMME GUESS-- YOU KILLED THE PROFESSOR BECAUSE HE GAVE YOU AN "F" IN OBEDIENCE TRAINING.

YOU THINK THIS MUTT LIKES TO PLAY FETCH?
LET'S FIND OUT.
LOOKS LIKE A WOLF'S CLAW.
SAYS HERE THAT NATIVE AMERICANS BELIEVED THAT WALKING IN THE SKIN OF A WOLF WOULD TURN THEM INTO ONE...

VAMPIRE BLOOD.

ELENA. DON'T FREAK OUT. IT'S ME.
EITHER OF YOU MOVE, I LET THIS CROSSBOW FLY RIGHT THROUGH ONE OF YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEARTS.
IS THAT MY BLOOD IN THE BOWL?
YEP.
SHOULD WE BE WORRIED?
START. TALKING. OR I'M GONNA GO OLD YELLER ON YOU.
THE PROFESSOR GOT TOO CLOSE TO THE TRUTH. AND WE COULDN'T HAVE HIM MESSING UP OUR PLAN.
AND WHAT PLAN WOULD THAT BE?
TO MAKE OURSELVES PERMANENT WOLVES.


HOW THE HELL DO YOU GENIUSES PLAN ON DOING THAT?
WITH YOUR FRIEND'S BLOOD DONATION, WE HAVE EVERYTHING WE NEED.


SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE INTRIGUED BY THE THOUGHT OF MAKING THE DARK PART OF YOURSELF PERMANENT.

WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG, DUDE?

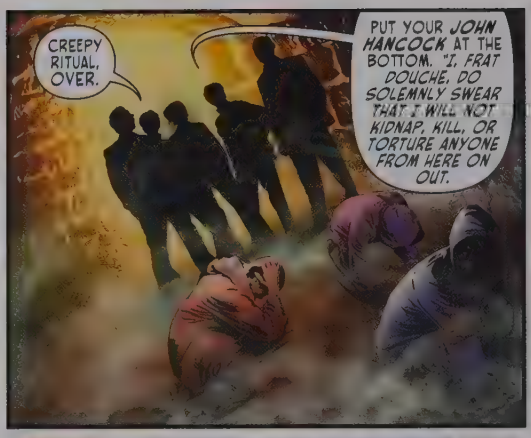
FFWSSHHH

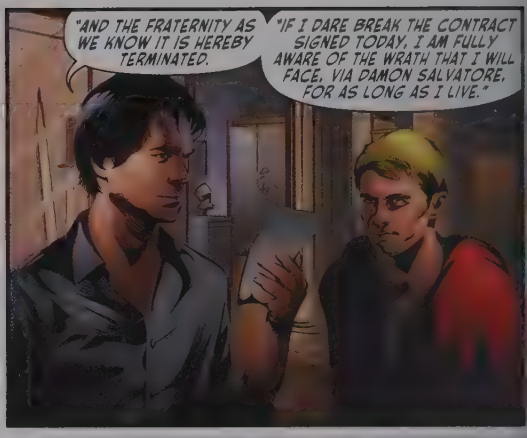
DO IT.
DAMON, DON'T.
DON'T MAKE WHAT HE'S SAYING ABOUT YOU TRUE.

LOOKS LIKE YOUR KILLER INSTINCT IS STILL--

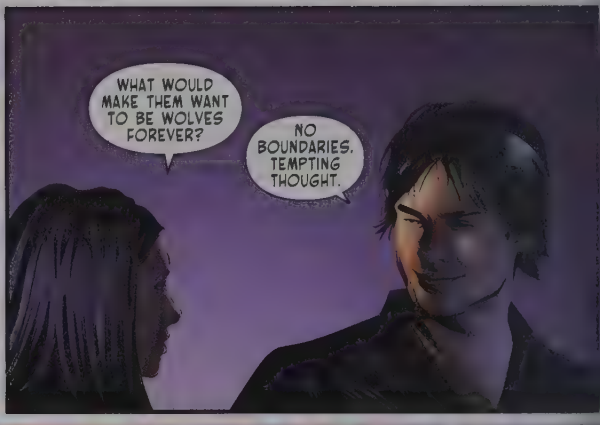
WHAM

HE WAS STARTING TO ANNOY ME.


CREEPY RITUAL, OVER.
PUT YOUR JOHN HANCOCK AT THE BOTTOM. "I, FRAT DOUCHE, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL NOT KIDNAP, KILL, OR TORTURE ANYONE FROM HERE ON OUT.


"AND THE FRATERNITY AS WE KNOW IT IS HEREBY TERMINATED.
"IF I DARE BREAK THE CONTRACT SIGNED TODAY, I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE WRATH THAT I WILL FACE, VIA DAMON SALVATORE, FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE."

CLASS DISMISSED.


WHAT WOULD MAKE THEM WANT TO BE WOLVES FOREVER?
NO BOUNDARIES. TEMPTING THOUGHT.

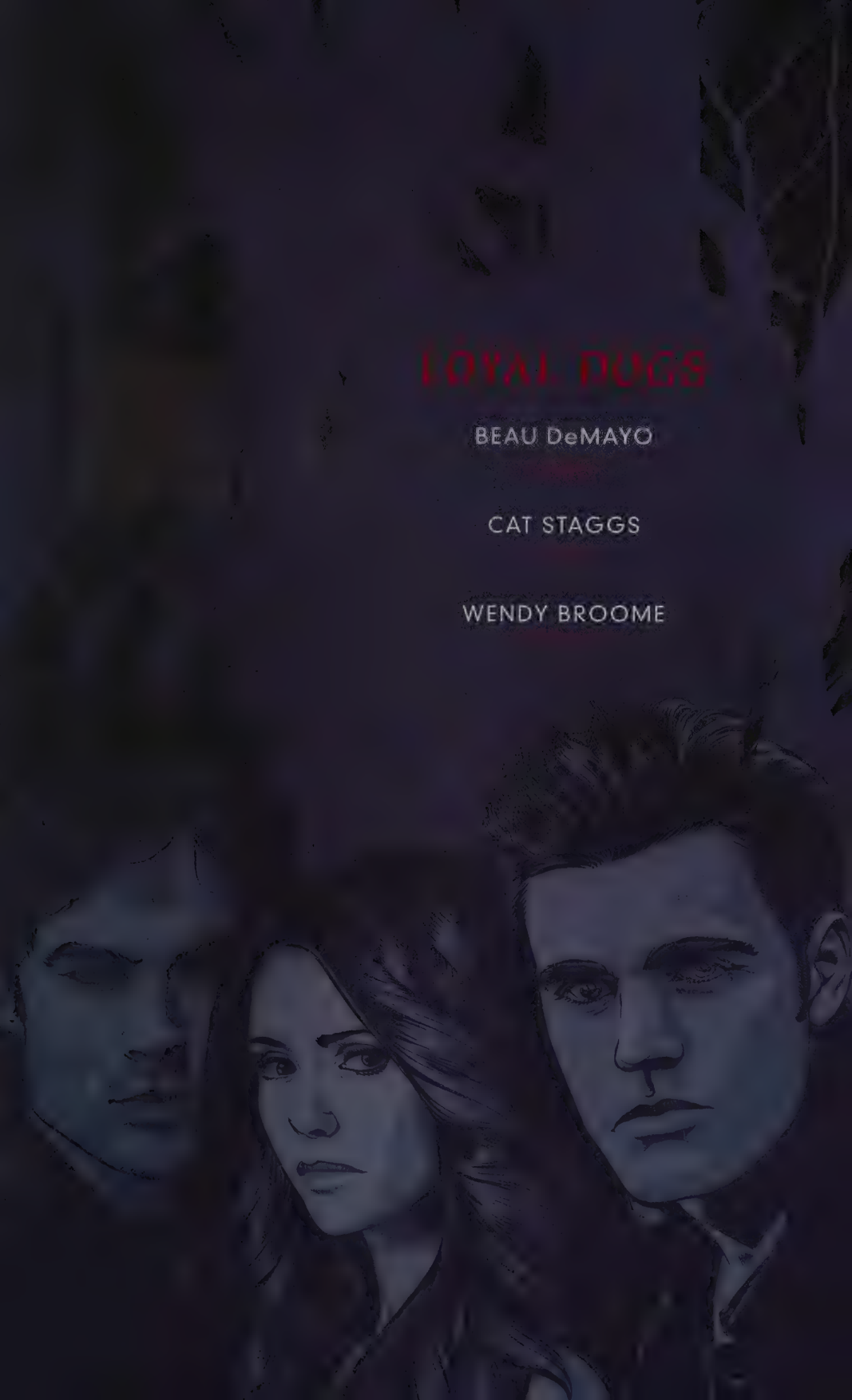
NOT IF SOMEONE'S AROUND TO BRING YOU BACK TO TRUE NORTH.
AND THERE'S ALWAYS THAT ONE FRIEND WHO WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING.
THE END

LOYAL DOGS

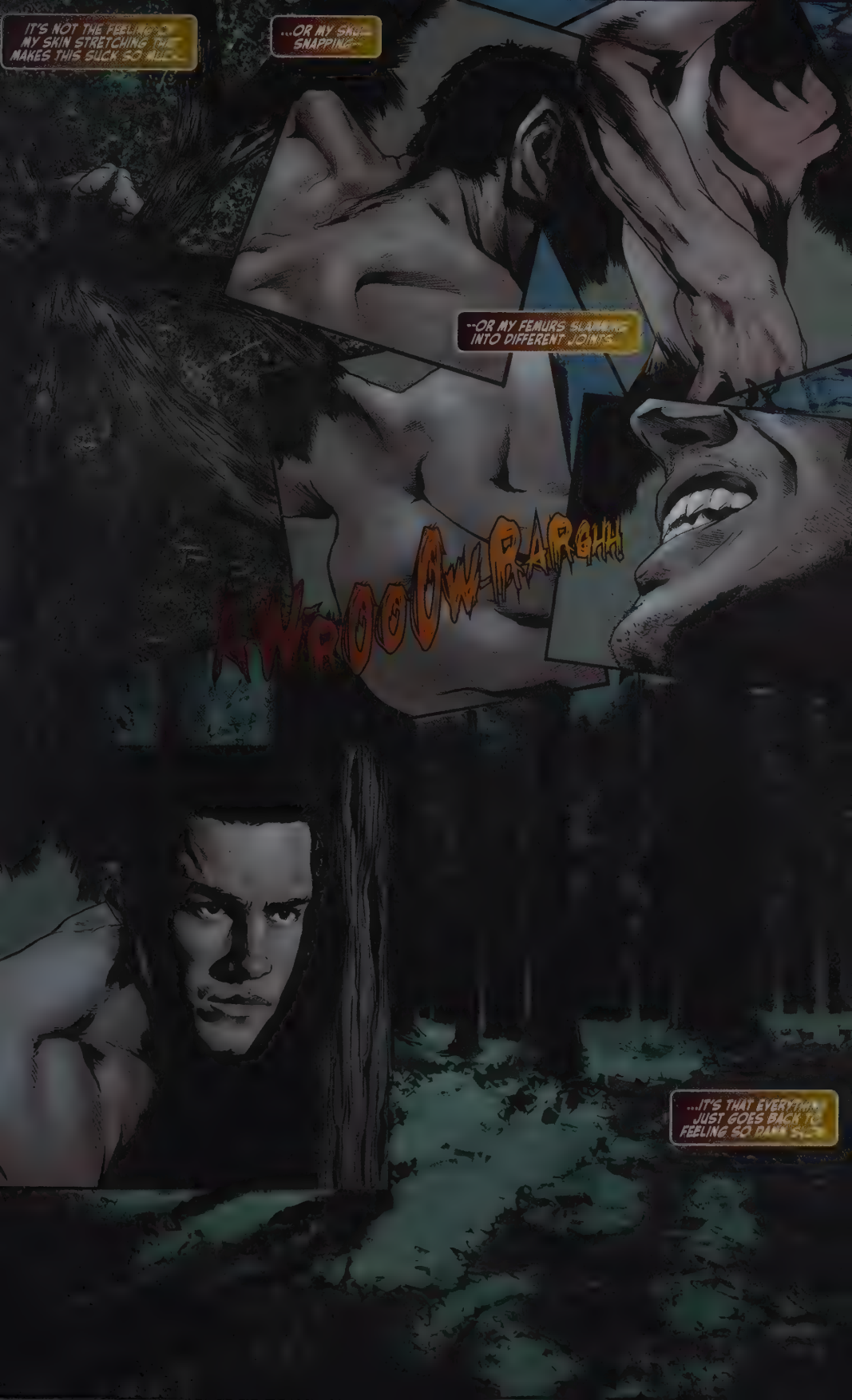
BEAU DeMAYO

CAT STAGGS

WENDY BROOME



THE AVERAGE GUY RUNS JUST AROUND 15 MILES PER HOUR--
--LEAST THAT'S WHAT MY FOOTBALL COACH USED TO SAY.
I JUST BROKE 30...
...WHERE'S A COLLEGE SCOUT WHEN YOU NEED ONE?
BUT THEN WHY WOULD THE AVERAGE JOE NEED TO RUN 30? WAIT, NOW 50--MILES PER HOUR? WHAT THE HECK WOULD HE BE RUNNING TO SO FAST? OR REALLY, RUNNING FROM?
ME. NOW THAT'S A TOTALLY DIFFERENT STORY.
OH, AND THAT OTHER REASON...
...MMM. THAT


IT'S NOT THE FEELING OF MY SKIN STRETCHING THAT MAKES THIS SUCK SO MUCH...
...OR MY SKULL SNAPPING...
...OR MY FEMURS SLAMMING INTO DIFFERENT JOINTS...
AWOOOWRARGHH
...IT'S THAT EVERYTHING JUST GOES BACK TO FEELING SO DAMN SLOW...

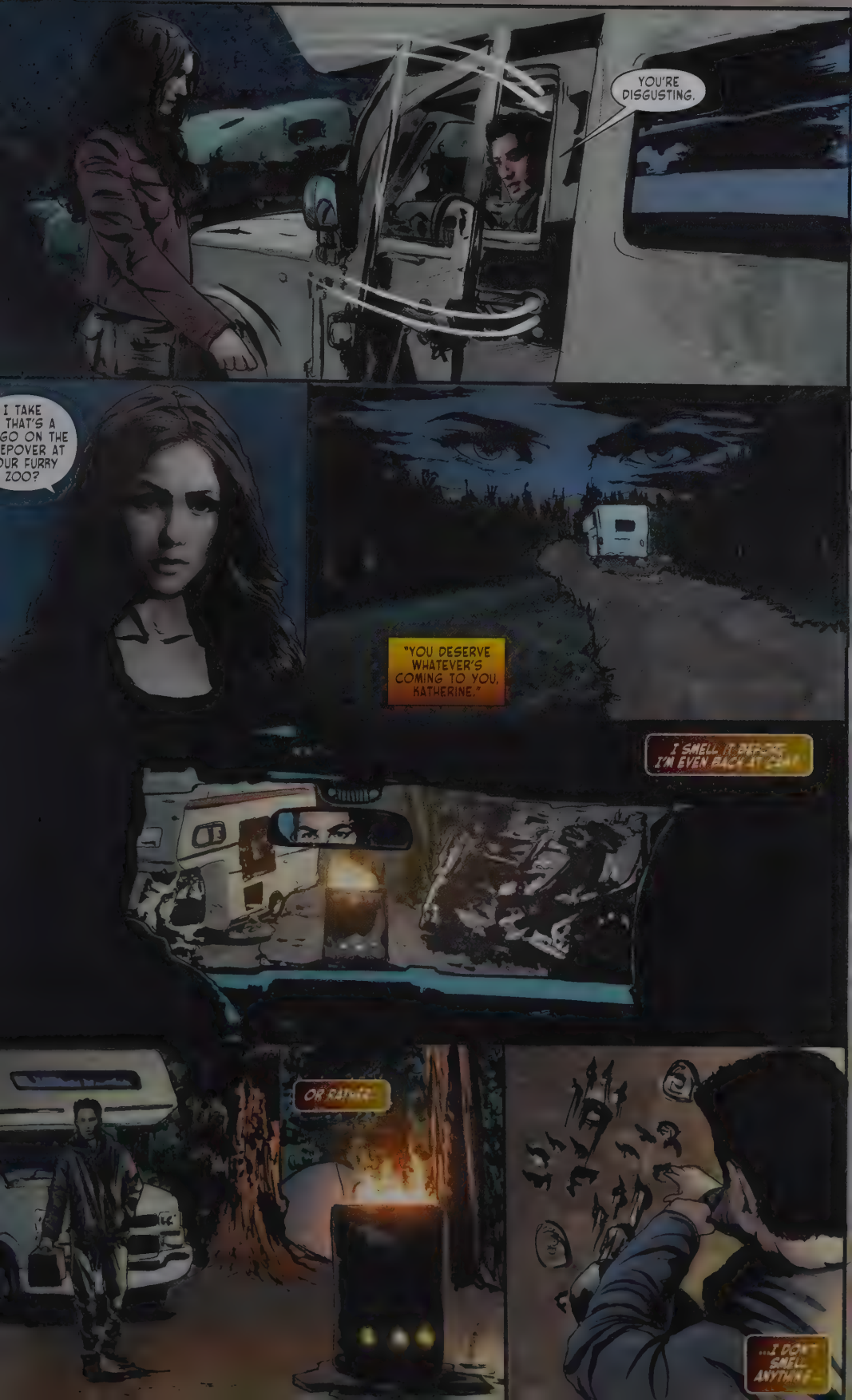
SO FAR, SO GOOD WITH THE PACK. WORRIED THEY'D BE A DRAG TO RIDE WITH, BUT I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT MY OWN. HELPS THAT THEY'RE ALL GOOD PEOPLE... OR WEREWOLVES... OR HYBRIDS... OR--WHATEVER.
YO, TY. EIGHTY-SIX ON THE BOOZE. THE PACK VOTED AND GUESS WHO'S DOING A BEER RUN? YOU!
TWO 6-PACKS AND A JAGER SHOT? I'M FORGETTING HOW TO WALK, BRO.
YOU FORGET HOW TO DRIVE, IAN?
SOMEWHERE IN THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS.
HOW DO YOU NOT HAVE RED STRIPE?
LIKE YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO BE BUYING BOOZE, TYLER.
KATHERINE?!
OR DO YOU DO THE WHOLE COMPULSION THING? GOD, I MISS COMPULSION! DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH MORE ANNOYING PEOPLE ARE WHEN YOU ACTUALLY HAVE TO REASON WITH THEM?
YOUR PROBLEM, NOT MINE.
STRANGLING A POOR, DEFENSELESS GIRL IN FRONT OF A BUNCH OF SARAH PALIN'S FINEST WILL BE. SO DOWN, BOY.

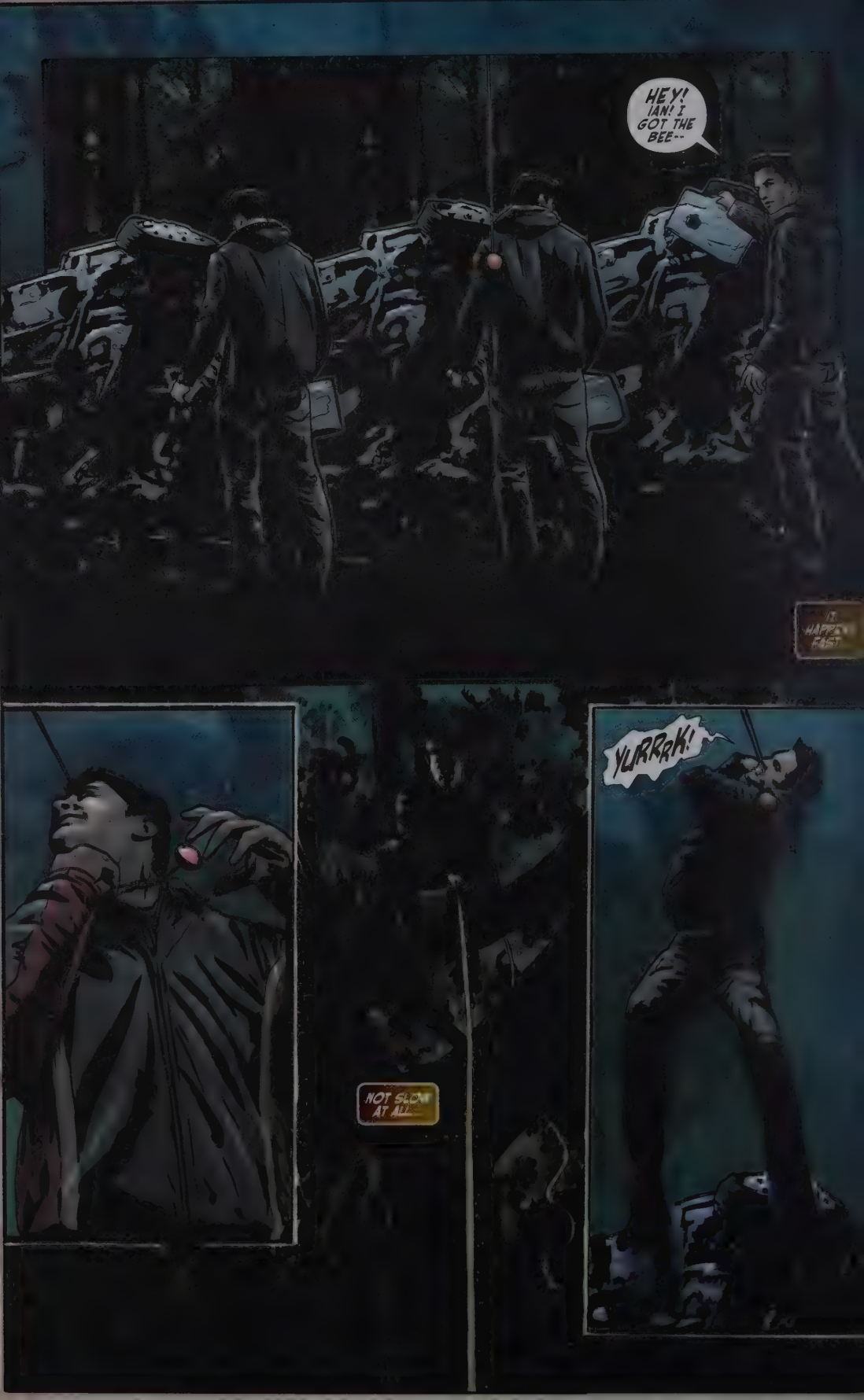
YOU DON'T NEED TO SEE MY I.D. AND YOU NEVER SAW ME.
YOU HEARD THE NEWS ABOUT YOUR LADY LOVE, CAROLINE?
YOU HAVEN'T! TOO BAD. HOW ABOUT THIS? MORTALITY DOESN'T REALLY AGREE WITH ME AND WELL--BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, I GET THE WHOLE EMO FAD NOW.
SO HOW ABOUT YOU BUY ME SOME DINNER AND I GIVE YOU THE 4-1-1 ON CAROLINE?
KATHERINE PIERCE USED TO BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST, BADDEST VAMPS AROUND. NOW, SHE'S HUMAN AGAIN, AND SINCE THE BITCH'S SPENT THE PAST 600 YEARS STRUTTING HER STUFF LIKE SHE OWNS THE WORLD, SHE'S MADE AN ENEMY OR TWO.
SO...? CAROLINE...?
OH, THAT--I JUST NEEDED TO GET YOU TO BUY ME SOME FOOD. SHE'S GREAT. TOTALLY FINE. COLLEGE. YAY. HEY, YOU THINK I COULD MAYBE CRASH WITH YOU AND YOUR NEW FRIENDS FOR A FEW NIGHTS?
...AND ALSO BECAUSE SHE DOES CRAP LIKE
GET LOST, KATHERINE.
WHAT? I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO JOIN YOUR LITTLE WOLFPACK?
LIKE I'D LET A BACK-STABBER LIKE YOU ANYWHERE NEAR THEM...

OW. SO PROTECTIVE, SO LOYAL. I MEAN, YOU DITCHED THE MYSTIC FALLS GROUPIES FOR THEM. YOU DITCHED CAROLINE.
I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO MY PACK--
BLIND LOYALTY TOO, EVEN WORSE! BECAUSE IT'S, YOU KNOW... ER, YOU'LL SEE... OR WELL, YOU WON'T...
WHAT THE HELL WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT LOYALTY?
OH TYLER, I COULD TELL YOU QUITE A FEW STORIES...
"...ABOUT THE DANGERS OF LOYALTY."
TO MYSTIC FALLS! MAY IT TREAT OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS AS KINDLY AS IT HAS TREATED US!
HOW LONG WILL YOU BE STAYING WITH US, MS. PIERCE?
THIS TOWN IS ABSORBING, MR. LOCKWOOD. I WAGER YOU CAN CHART MY RESIDENCY WELL INTO THE YEARS.
WELL, LET'S HOPE A LADY SUCH AS YOURSELF USES A FEW MONTHS, AND NOT YEARS, TO FIND A CHANCE TO SETTLE DOWN.
DO I DETECT THE SLAMMING OF A GAVEL IN YOUR TONE, MR. SALVATORE?
NO, NO-- I AM ONLY SAYING THAT I NOTICE YOU SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH BOTH MY BOYS.
WHY, I NEVER PUT MY MONEY DOWN UNTIL I RIDE EVERY HORSE IN THE STABLE. AND YOUR FAMILY STABLE MAY BE SMALL, MR. SALVATORE... BUT YOUR HORSES ARE BOTH VERY WELL BRED.
HELP!

WE FOUND HER IN THE FORESTS OUT BACK, SIR!
CALL DOCTOR JOSIAH! HURRY!
HER NAME'S CARRISA. ONE OF EMILY'S SERVANT GIRLS.
I'VE GOT A PULSE! FAINT, BUT THERE!
...UGH. €*%.
"CARISSA AND I WERE FRIENDS. THIS WAS BACK...
...WHEN I WAS STILL DEALING WITH THAT LITTLE FALLING OUT I HAD WITH KLAUS. SHE WAS GOING TO HELP ME FIX THE PROBLEM.
HOW'S THAT?
"CARISSA WAS ONE OF EMILY'S WITCHES. SHE CLAIMED SHE HAD FOUND A WAY TO KILL KLAUS."
"AND WHY WOULD ANYONE HELP YOU?"
"SHE WAS...LOYAL TO ME. AND SHE HAD QUITE THE FETISH FOR EXPRESSION MAGIC, TOO.

"SADLY, A FETISH DOES NOT A SKILL MAKE."
I AM SO SORRY, KATHERINE! I'M NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH, I THOUGHT I COULD--
CRUNCH!!!
SCHRLURP
I'M SORRY... DON'T... I LOVE YOU...
IF ONLY YOUR ADORATION HAD BEEN MORE COMPETENT, DEAR
I WAGER ONE OF YOUR FIELD TOOLS GOT OUTTA CONTROL, GEORGE. YOU JUST KNOW HOW SAVAGE THEY GET WHEN THEY'RE IN HEAT.
"SHE DIED?!"
"EH, NEXT BEST THING. COMA. EITHER WAY, SHE WOULDN'T BE TALKING."


YOU'RE DISGUSTING.
I TAKE THAT'S A GO ON THE EPOVER AT UR FURRY ZOO?
"YOU DESERVE WHATEVER'S COMING TO YOU, KATHERINE."
I SMELL IT BEFORE I'M EVEN BACK AT
OR RAPE.
...I DON'T SMELL ANYTHING...

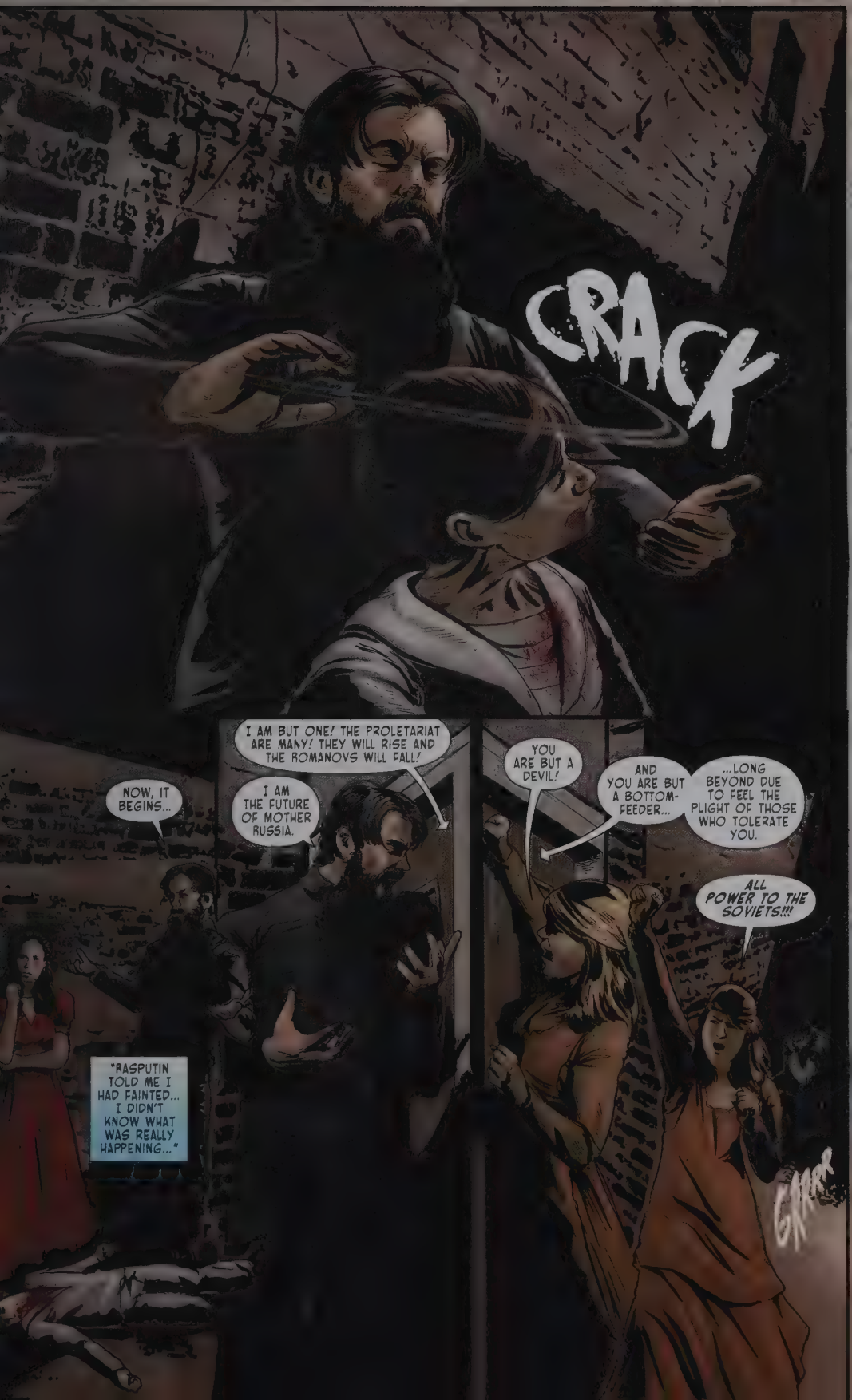

HEY! IAN! I GOT THE BEE--
YURRRK!
NOT SLOW AT ALL

NETS OF WOLFSBANE. COOL, RIGHT?
THE REST OF YOUR FRIENDS ARE STRUNG UP THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE FOREST. I HAVEN'T KILLED THEM LIKE THESE TWO THOUGH.
NOT YET.
I'M ALEX, BY THE WAY. HELLO. OH, AND MY VICTIMS CALL ME *THE BLOOD TSAR.* IT'S A LONG LIST...
...ANYWOO, HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU BACK YOUR DOGS IF YOU DO ME A SOLID AND HELP ME ADD KATERINA PETROVISCH TO THAT LIST?
JUST HOW- IF THE ANSWER'S YES. IF THE ANSWER'S NO, WELL...

"CAN YOU COMPREHEND THE DEPTHS OF YOUR FAILURE?
YOUR EMPRESS TRUSTED YOU TO SAVE HER SON. YOU, MY MAN OF GOD...
...LOOK AT MY CHILD, THE HEIR TO THE TSAR, HIS VERY BLOOD STILL POISONING HIM!
YOU HAVE NOT ONLY FAILED ME...
...NOR YOUR FUTURE TSAR. YOU HAVE FAILED THE WHOLE OF THE MOTHERLAND HERSELF.
PATIENCE, EMPRESS. OVERTURNING THE LAWS OF LIFE AND DEATH--THESE ARE NOT MATTERS FOR MERE MORTAL MEN.
YET, DO NOT FEAR, MY SWEET ALEXANDRA...
...I CAME HERE TONIGHT TO TELL YOU FATE WILL BE VETOED. FOR I, RASPUTIN, HAVE FOUND A WAY TO SAVE YOUR SON!
"WAITAMINUTE. YOU WERE KING OF RUSSIA?"

AND THANK YOU, KATHERINE PIERCE. I LEAVE MYSTIC FALLS, ALL MY FRIENDS, MY GIRLFRIEND, TO PROTECT MY WEREWOLF PACK.
TSAR, SAME NG. AND I WAS NNA BE...UNTIL KATHERINE.
...AND GET STUCK ON A ROAD TRIP WITH A TEENAGE RIPPER WHO'S HOLDING MY PACK HOSTAGE UNTIL HE KILLS YOU.
WHAT?
FETCH.
MAN, I AM GONNA KILL KATHERINE MYSELF.
"ARE WE THERE YET?"

KATHERINE'S SCENT WAS AT THAT REST STOP. TRUCKER SAID HE SAW HER GET ON A BUS HEADED FOR DAYTONA BEACH.
UGH. THAT'S LIKE SIX HOURS AWAY. I'M BORED RIGHT NOW!
YEAH, SO LISTEN TO SOME MUSIC--
OH, I KNOW! WHERE'D I LEAVE OFF...
"DO WE HAVE A DEAL?"
MY CONTACT WARNED ME ABOUT YOU, RASPUTIN.
DO YOU OR DO YOU NOT WISH TO LEARN HOW TO KILL AN ORIGINAL VAMPIRE?
FINE. DEAL. THOUGH I AM AT A LOSS AS TO WHY YOU VALUE THE EMPRESS'S EAR...
...YOU'VE SEEN THE PROTESTS. I HAVE MORE LIFE IN ME THAN THE ROYAL FAMILY.
WHERE'S MAMA...?
HERE, HAVE A FEW SIPS.
IT WILL...?
YES. IT'S MEDICINE.
THERE, NOW... ONLY A FEW MORE SIPS...
IT'S GROSS--

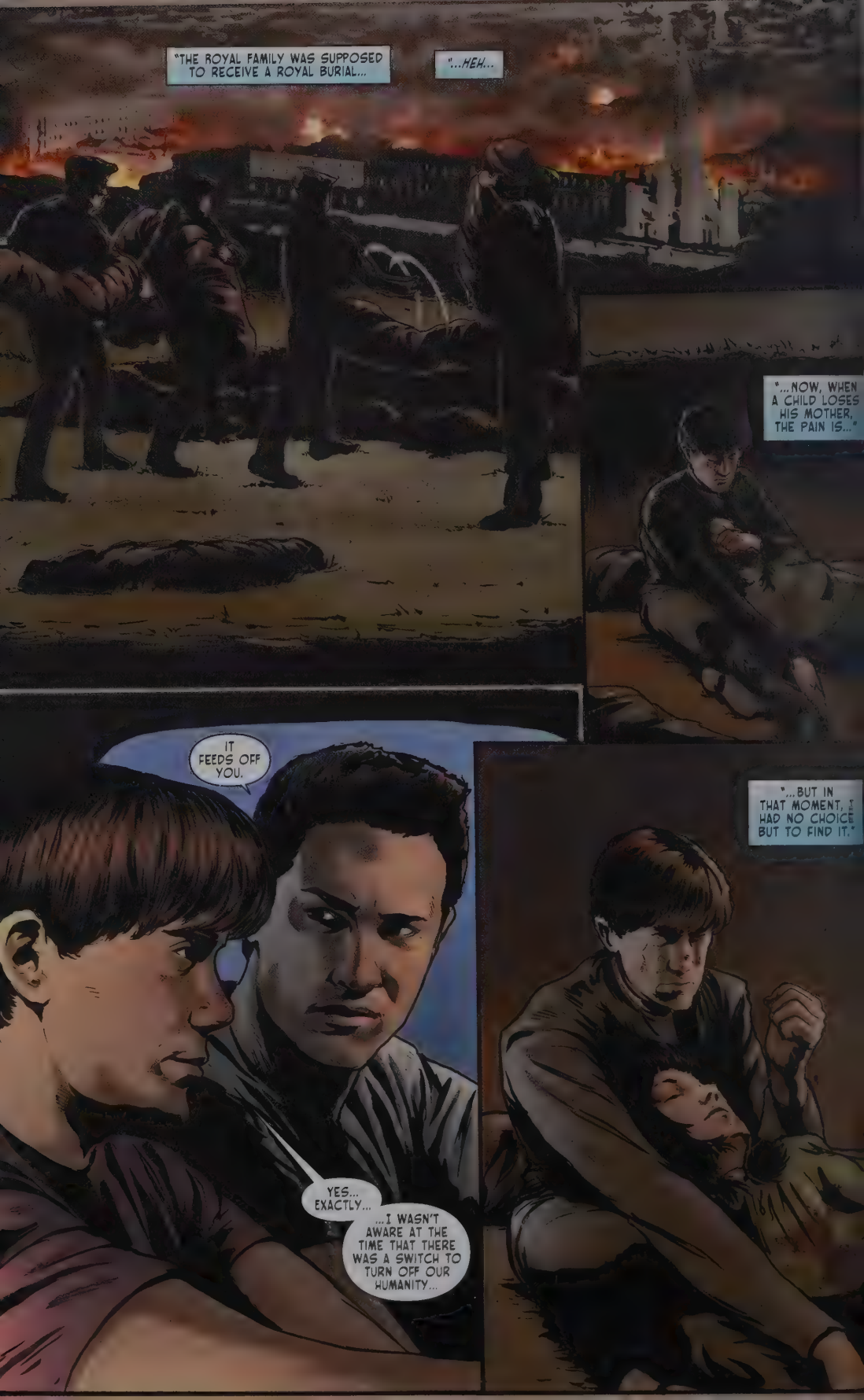

CRACK
NOW, IT BEGINS...
I AM BUT ONE! THE PROLETARIAT ARE MANY! THEY WILL RISE AND THE ROMANOVS WILL FALL!
I AM THE FUTURE OF MOTHER RUSSIA.
YOU ARE BUT A DEVIL!
AND YOU ARE BUT A BOTTOM-FEEDER...
...LONG BEYOND DUE TO FEEL THE PLIGHT OF THOSE WHO TOLERATE YOU.
ALL POWER TO THE SOVIETS!!!
"RASPUTIN TOLD ME I HAD FAINTED... I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS REALLY HAPPENING..."

AAAAAHHH!
"MOTHER'S JOY AT SEEING ME ALIVE, SO TO SPEAK, MADE TRANSITION EASIER.
"SHE THOUGHT IT WAS MAGIC. AND OF COURSE RASPUTIN SPUN HIS TALES..."
"...BUT RUMORS OF MY MOTHER'S OCCULT DEALINGS BEGAN TO SPREAD AMONG THE LAZY PEASANTRY.
NO POWER IN THIS WORLD, OR THE NEXT, IS GREATER THAN MY LOYALTY, EMPRESS.
"HOW THEY LEARNED OF THIS, I CAN ONLY ASSUME..."

HOW UCH LONGER, RASPUTIN? I ULFILLED MY TERMS!
PATIENCE, KATERINA. WHAT YOU ASK IS NO TASK FOR A MERE MORTAL--
I AM NOT ONE OF YOUR SYCOPHANTS! PERFORM THE SPELL, THE RITUAL, WHATEVER IT IS THAT KILLS AN ORIGINAL!
THERE IS NO SPELL! BUT THERE IS YOU, A LEGENDARY PETROVA DOPPLEGANGER, THE WITCH QETSIYAH'S MASTERPIECE.
WHAT SECRETS WILL I FIND IN DISSECTING YOU, I WONDER...
BO

CARISSA! STUPID GIRL!
YOU PRESUME TO FIGHT ME WHEN YOU HAD TO SEND YOUR INFATUATION TO ME BECAUSE YOU WERE NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DO WHAT RASPUTIN CAN.
YOU PATHETIC LOVESICK KITTEN...
NOT LOVESICK...

...LOYAL!
"I FOUND OUT LATER THE WITCH THAT SAVED KATHERINE USED HER MAGIC TO KEEP HERSELF YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL, HOPING FOR KATHERINE'S HEART...
"SOME SAID THE REVOLUTION WAS SIMPLY PART OF THAT STRANGE BLIZZARD..."
DEATH TO THE TSAR!
"...A STORM THAT WOULD END WITH MY FAMILY."
DON'T FEAR, MY LOVE. THE TSAR'S BLOOD IS ETERNAL.


"THE ROYAL FAMILY WAS SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE A ROYAL BURIAL...
"...HEH...
"...NOW, WHEN A CHILD LOSES HIS MOTHER, THE PAIN IS..."
IT FEEDS OFF YOU.
YES... EXACTLY...
...I WASN'T AWARE AT THE TIME THAT THERE WAS A SWITCH TO TURN OFF OUR HUMANITY...
"...BUT IN THAT MOMENT, I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FIND IT."

& BOARDWALK
WELCOME TO DAYTONA BEA
SHE'S HERE. I CAN SMELL HER.
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T GET WHY ALEX WANTS KATHERINE...
I CAN FEEL HER...
...BUT THE LAST TIME ALEX HAD A RUN-IN WITH KATHERINE...
...AN ENTIRE NATION BURNS...
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENS WHEN THE TWO MEET AGAIN?

AND THE PROBLEM IS... WHAT?
YEAH, AND THERE'S THIS THING CALLED COMPULSION...
I'M NOT REALLY OF AGE, OKAY?
YOU COULD JUST GO IN, YOU KNOW.
SURE. BUNCH OF DRUNK FRAT BRATS. I WOULDN'T STICK OUT AT ALL.
WELL THERE IS THIS THING, CALLED COM--
HA. HA. I'D HAVE TO COMPEL THE WHOLE BAR, STUPID.
WE HAD A DEAL, OKAY? YOU HELP ME. I RELEASE YOUR FRIENDS.
I'M JUST SAYING--
NO, YOU'RE JUST WHINING. IT'S SIMPLE...
...YOU SNEAK INSIDE THE BAR, FIND KATHERINE, GET HER OUTSIDE, THEN YOU WATCH ME KILL HER.
I REALLY LOVE THIS GAME!

...WHEN THEY'RE NOT BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY SOME PREPUBESCENT VAMPIRE
BY THE WAY, THANKS FOR THAT, KATHRYNE
THAT'S MY I.D. I'M AN EASY 21.
BUT WHEN THEY PACK PARTIES...IT'S NOT US HAVING FUN SO MUCH AS US TRYING TO REMEMBER HOW IT USED TO BE NORMAL
HEY, I'M LOOKING FOR A FRIEND, AND I WAS HOPING YOU COULD HELP ME OUT...
NOW, WHY THE HELL WOULD I HELP ONE OF YOU FURRY LOCKWOODS?

NAME'S CARISSA. YOU MUST BE... TYLER?
YOU'RE--! YOU KNOW WHAT? WHATEVER. I'M LOOKING FOR KATHERINE PIE--RGHHH!
SIR, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK. YOU OKAY?
WHAT... WHAT'RE... WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO ME?
LI'L SHOT OF EXPRESSION GOES A LONG WAY.
YOU THOUGHT YOU'D WALK IN HERE AND I WOULDN'T SMELL THAT DAMP, FURRY LOCKWOOD MUSK?
GOD, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE GEORGE LOCKWOOD. JUST LIKE MASON, TOO.
WHAT...? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY UNCLE?!
OH, YOU SWEET IDIOT...

"I'M THE ONE WHO HELPED KICK-START UNCLE MASON'S CURSE."
KATHERINE, MASON LOCKWOOD. MASON, KATHERINE PIERCE.
"KATHERINE AND I HADN'T SPOKEN SINCE MAYBE 1918. WHEN WE FLED EASTERN EUROPE. FEW DECADES OR SO LATER...
"...I REACHED OUT. I'D FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO SAVE MY GIRL...
"...FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO WIN HER HEART!
"OR SO I THOUGHT."

...YOU SAID WE'D JUST USE HIM TO GET THE MOONSTONE.
WE WILL. BUT TO BREAK THE SUN AND MOON CURSE, KLAUS'LL NEED A WEREWOLF--AND THEY AREN'T EXACTLY IN HIGH SUPPLY. TWO BIRDS, ONE MOONSTONE.
TRIGGER MASON'S CURSE, YOU SAY...
YES, WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. YOU HAVE TO BE. ONCE MASON TURNS ALL WOOF-WOOF, IF HE WERE TO BITE YOU...
THERE WOULDN'T BE ANOTHER REASON BEHIND THIS WHOLE TURN-MY-STRAPPING-LOCKWOOD-INTO-A-VAMPIRE-KILLING-MONGREL PLAN?
NO, NO--WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
OH, NO REASON AT ALL.
NEXT MORNING, KATHERINE LEFT WITH MASON--WITHOUT ME, OF COURSE. SILLY CARISSA. ANYWAY, THE REST, AS THEY SAY...
BUT ONE DAY, MAYBE EVEN TODAY, KATHERINE WILL FINALLY SEE ME FOR WHO I AM HER ONE TRUE--

DO YOU REALIZE HOW PATHETIC YOU SOUND? KATHERINE'S IN LOVE WITH ONLY ONE PERSON: KATHERINE!
NONE OF YOU UNDERSTAND HER LIKE I DO! THAT'S WHY SHE CAME TO ME HERE. YOU AND ALEX WILL NEVER FIND HER.
WAIT-- YOU KNEW...? SHE'S NOT HERE...?!
LEFT. HOURS AGO. SOON AS I SAW YOU TWO GET INTO TOWN.
YOU'VE BEEN DISTRACTING US...
NEVER SEND A WEREWOLF TO DO A VAMPIRE'S JOB...
COME BACK WHEN YOUR BALLS DROP, LITTLE GUY...
THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO YOUR ELDERS.
OH, I'M NOT JUST DISTRACTING YOU. I'M PUTTING YOU DOWN--
AIIEEEEEEE!

I NEED A DRINK.
BAR
GRRRR
CRASH
BAR
SQUISH CRUNCH
BOOM
RARRGH
BAR
PLEASE! PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME DRINHHMMM...

THINK OF THIS AS A DRINKING GAME...
NO!!
CRACK
WHAT... WHERE AM I...?
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, KATHERINE PIERCE WOULD'VE NEVER COME TO MOSCOW...
NO... NO-NO-NO...
LOOK AT YOURSELF. IN TRANSITION, NO MAGIC...
...A PATHETIC MESS OF STALE WRINKLES AND SANDPAPER JOINTS--USED, DRAINED, AND DISCARDED BY KATHERINE PIERCE.
THIS IS HOW SHE'LL ALWAYS SEE YOU...

"...THIS IS HOW SHE HAS ALWAYS SEEN YOU."
WHAT NOW?
KATHERINE'S LONG GONE BY NOW. BUT I'LL GET HER. EVENTUALLY.
AND ME AND MY PACK?
UNLIKE KATHERINE, I REWARD THOSE WHO STICK WITH ME.
CONSIDER OUR DEAL FULFILLED.
AND, TYLER?
"LOYALTY SHOULD ALWAYS BLEED YOU."

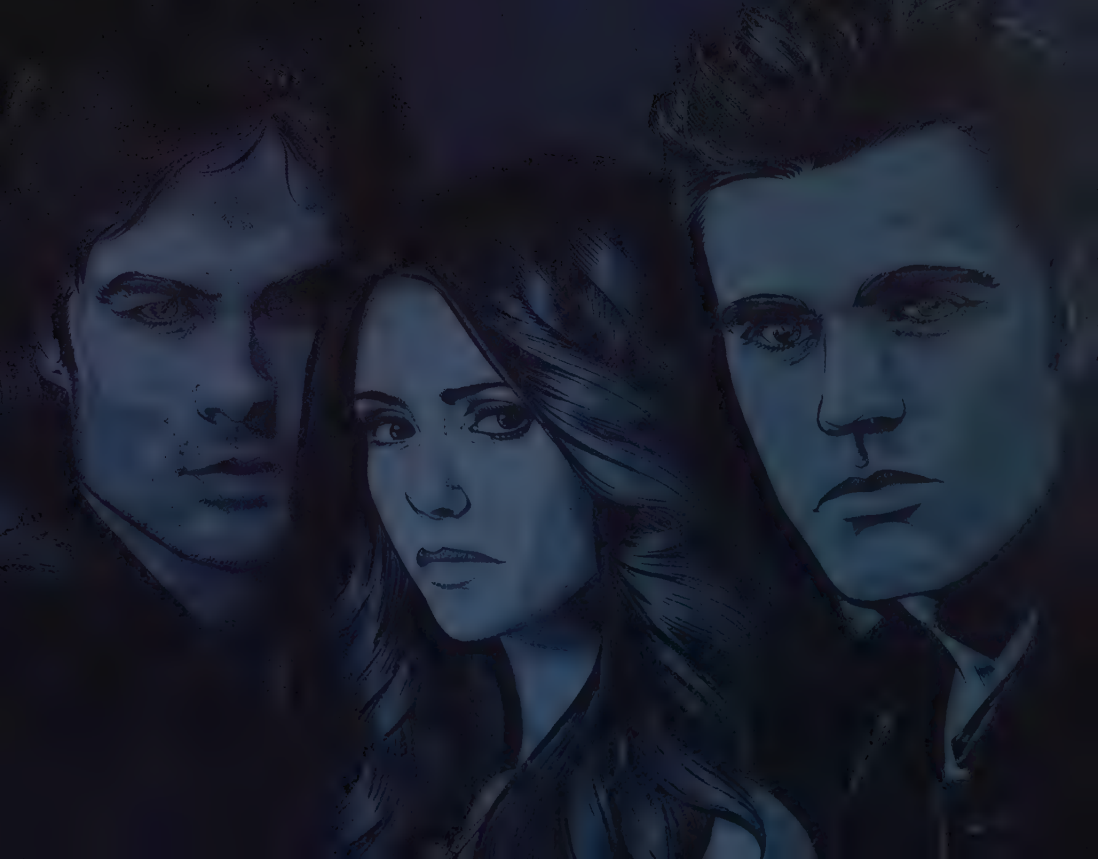
"HEY CAROLINE--LOOK, I'VE PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO THIS...
...AND DECIDED TO DEFER SCHOOL FOR NOW. THIS WEREWOLF PACK I'M HELPING...
"...THEY NEED ME.
I KNOW IT'S LAME TO DO THIS OVER THE PHONE. BUT I FIGURE THIS WAY IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO KILL ME.
I'M REALLY, REALLY, SORRY, CARL, BUT THIS IS IMPORTANT.
...I LOVE YOU.
The End

CARNIVAL OF SOULS

MATTHEW D'AMBROSIO,
MISSY WOODWARD
& JEANE WONG

BENI LOBEL

GARRY HENDERSON
OF SPACE GOAT PRODUCTIONS



THE VAMPIRE DIARIES Digital Chapters #37-39
cover by Jason Masters with Guy Major

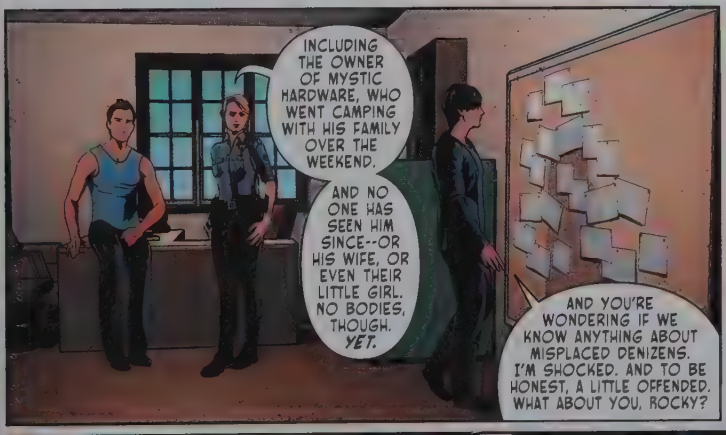
DAD, YOU FORGOT THE MARSHMALLOWS.
THEY'RE IN THE CAR. I'LL GO GET THEM.
DID HE LEAVE THE MARSHMALLOWS ON THE MOON?
STAY HERE, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
HONEY, THEY'RE IN THE TRUNK--
HONEY...?
UNNF!

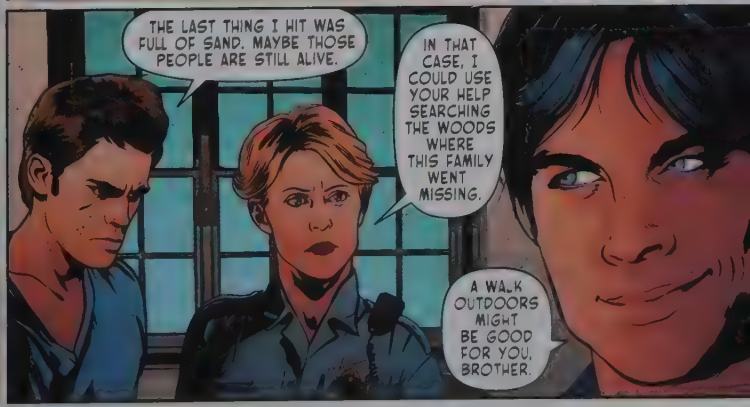
TWO DAYS LATER...

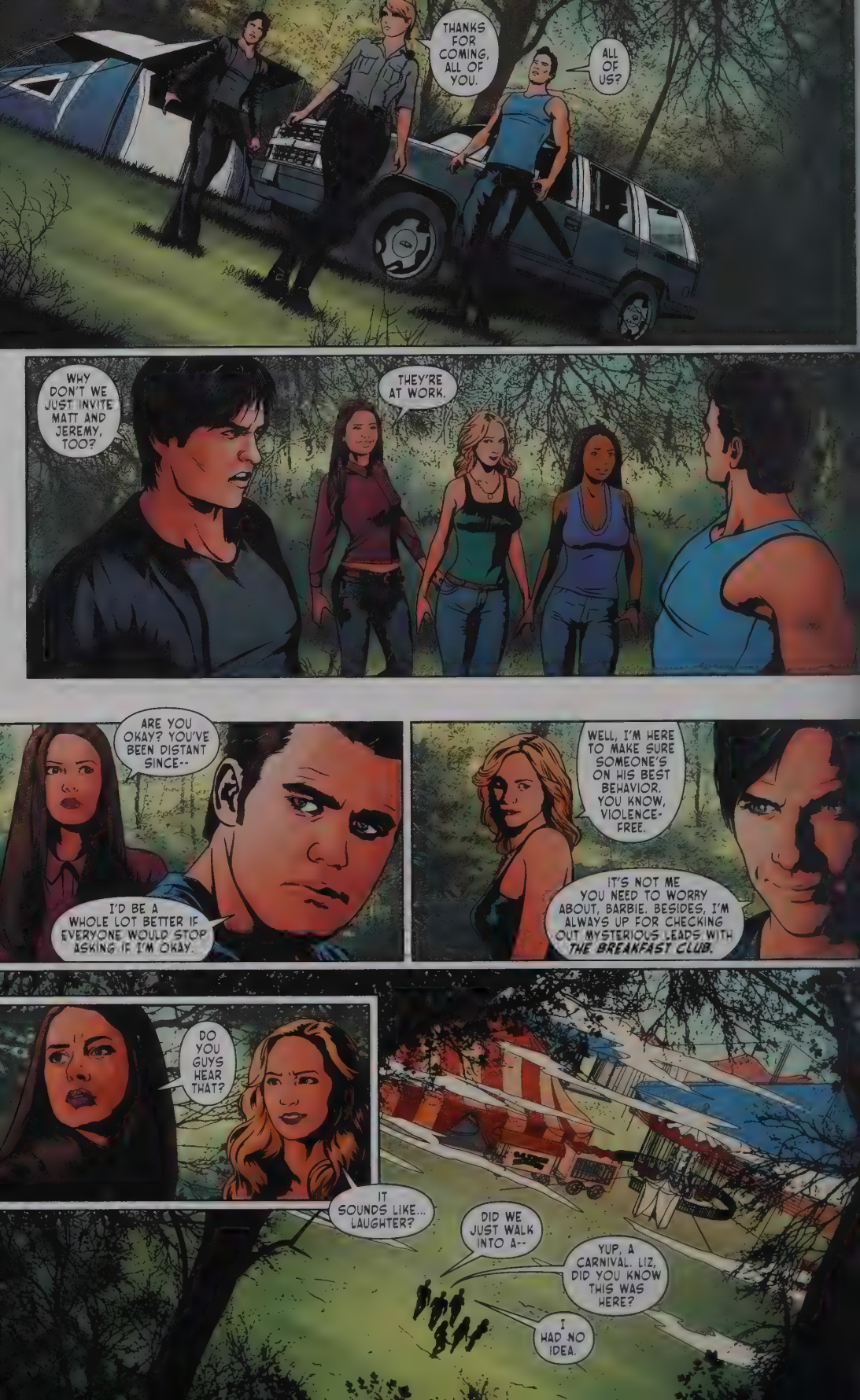
WHAT DID THAT BAG EVER DO TO YOU?
HOW ABOUT YOU COME A LITTLE CLOSER AND LET ME SHOW YOU.

COME ON, LET'S GO FOR A RIDE. MAYBE FREE THE HOUSE OF STEFAN-THE-UNFRIENDLY-MISANTHROPE FOR A FEW HOURS.
I'M NOT REALLY DOWN FOR A "RIDE" RIGHT NOW.
YOU WOULDN'T DISOBEY AN OFFICER OF THE LAW. WOULD YOU?

THANKS FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. EVERYONE ON THIS BOARD HAS GONE MISSING WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS. ALL OF THEM ARE FROM MYSTIC FALLS.

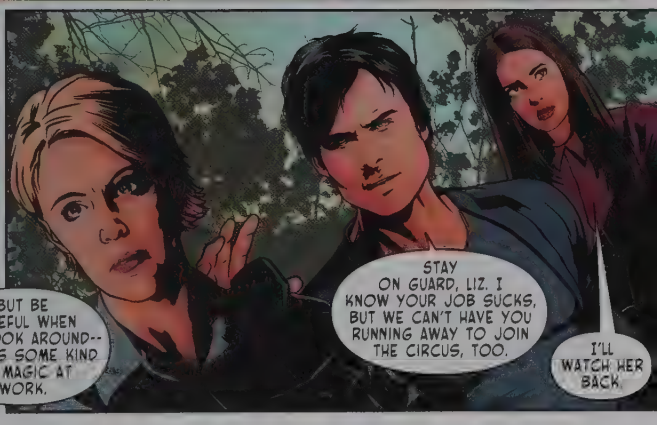

INCLUDING THE OWNER OF MYSTIC HARDWARE, WHO WENT CAMPING WITH HIS FAMILY OVER THE WEEKEND.
AND NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM SINCE--OR HIS WIFE, OR EVEN THEIR LITTLE GIRL. NO BODIES, THOUGH. YET.
AND YOU'RE WONDERING IF WE KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MISPLACED DENIZENS. I'M SHOCKED. AND TO BE HONEST, A LITTLE OFFENDED. WHAT ABOUT YOU, ROCKY?

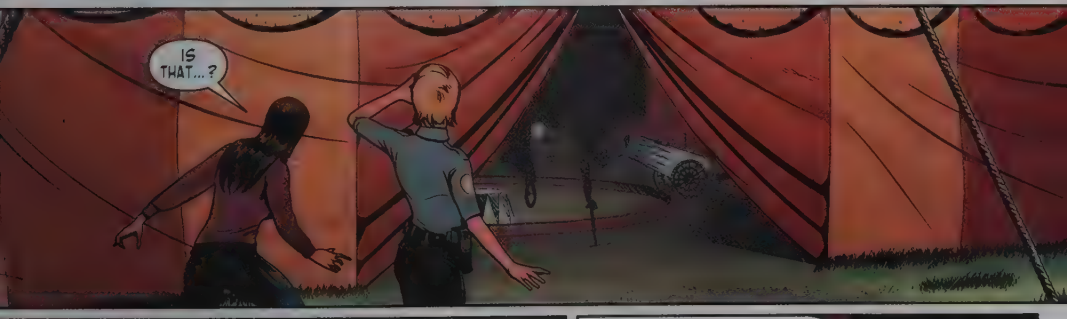

THE LAST THING I HIT WAS FULL OF SAND. MAYBE THOSE PEOPLE ARE STILL ALIVE.
IN THAT CASE, I COULD USE YOUR HELP SEARCHING THE WOODS WHERE THIS FAMILY WENT MISSING.
A WALK OUTDOORS MIGHT BE GOOD FOR YOU, BROTHER.


THANKS FOR COMING, ALL OF YOU.
ALL OF US?
WHY DON'T WE JUST INVITE MATT AND JEREMY, TOO?
THEY'RE AT WORK.
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'VE BEEN DISTANT SINCE--
I'D BE A WHOLE LOT BETTER IF EVERYONE WOULD STOP ASKING IF I'M OKAY.
WELL, I'M HERE TO MAKE SURE SOMEONE'S ON HIS BEST BEHAVIOR. YOU KNOW, VIOLENCE-FREE.
IT'S NOT ME YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT, BARBIE. BESIDES, I'M ALWAYS UP FOR CHECKING OUT MYSTERIOUS LEADS WITH THE BREAKFAST CLUB.
DO YOU GUYS HEAR THAT?
IT SOUNDS LIKE... LAUGHTER?
DID WE JUST WALK INTO A--
YUP, A CARNIVAL. LIZ, DID YOU KNOW THIS WAS HERE?
I HAD NO IDEA.

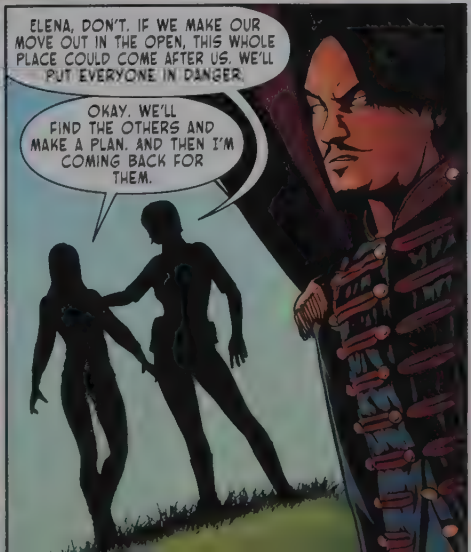
THAT'S OUR MISSING DAD. THE OWNER OF MYSTIC HARDWARE.
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN COMPELLED OR... SOMETHING.

IF THAT'S THE STOREOWNER, THEN MAYBE THE OTHER MISSING PEOPLE COULD BE AROUND HERE, TOO.
BUT BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU LOOK AROUND-- THERE'S SOME KIND OF MAGIC AT WORK.


STAY ON GUARD, LIZ. I KNOW YOUR JOB SUCKS, BUT WE CAN'T HAVE YOU RUNNING AWAY TO JOIN THE CIRCUS, TOO.
I'LL WATCH HER BACK.


IS THAT...?

...MATT AND JEREMY?!

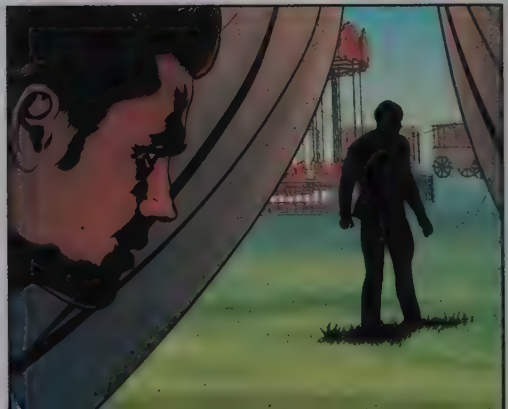

ELENA, DON'T. IF WE MAKE OUR MOVE OUT IN THE OPEN, THIS WHOLE PLACE COULD COME AFTER US. WE'LL PUT EVERYONE IN DANGER.
OKAY. WE'LL FIND THE OTHERS AND MAKE A PLAN. AND THEN I'M COMING BACK FOR THEM.

EVERY ONE OF THESE PERFORMERS IS UNDER SOME KIND OF SPELL.
BUT THEY'RE NOT COMPELLED. ANY INSIGHT, BONSTANCE?
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO BREAK MATT AND JEREMY FROM THEIR TRANCE. BUT I NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE MAGIC THAT'S MAKING THIS HAPPEN.

WHAT ABOUT THAT GUY?
HE DIDN'T GET THAT PENDANT AT A COSTUME SHOP. I'VE SEEN SOMETHING LIKE IT BEFORE--
--MAYBE IN GRAMS' BOOKS. I NEED TO GO BACK AND LOOK THROUGH HER RESEARCH...

I SAY WE BREAK KNEES FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER. AFTER ALL, IT'S FOUR VAMPS, A LADY WITH A GUN, AND AN EX-WITCH VERSUS ONE GUY.
IT *WOULD* BE A LOT QUICKER.

OF COURSE YOU AGREE WITH DAMON. STEFAN, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD GO IN THERE WITHOUT--



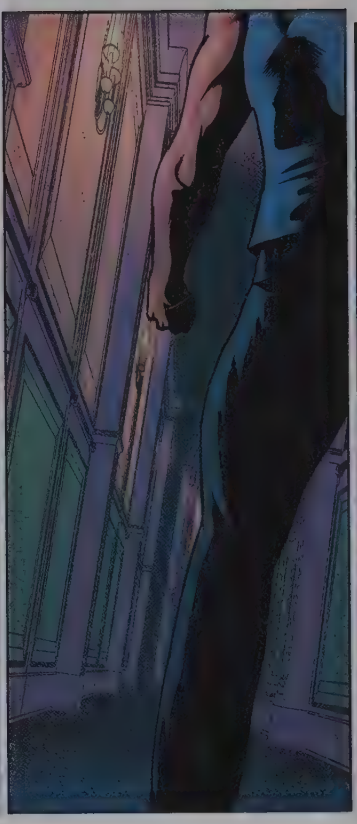
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE LABOR DEPARTMENT WOULD SAY ABOUT YOUR SET-UP? ALL THIS FREE LABOR IN VAUDEVILLE THREADS. YOU CAN KEEP THE VINTAGE OUTFITS, BUT I'M GONNA NEED THOSE PEOPLE BACK.
TELL YOU WHAT, WHY DON'T YOU STAY AND WATCH THE SHOW IN THE BIG TENT? TRUST ME, YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT.
AAH!
BONNIE, HOW FAST CAN WE BREAK THAT SPELL?

OF COURSE, DAMON MADE OUR PROBLEMS WORSE.
HE MADE A DECISION--
WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT ANY OF US.
AS USUAL.
I FOUND IT. THE PENDANT IS A DRUIDIC ARTIFACT, SOMETHING USED TO CONTROL A SUBJECT.
SAYS HERE THE PENDANT HAS TO BE DESTROYED TO RELEASE THE SUBJECTS FROM THEIR TRANCE. GUESS DAMON HAD THE RIGHT IDEA AFTER ALL.
BUT HE DIDN'T EXACTLY SUCCEED, ELENA. WE CAN'T BREAK A SPELL WITHOUT A WITCH, AND THE RING LEADER CAN ANEURYSM ANY VAMPIRE THAT GETS CLOSE TO HIM.
NOT IF I USE HERBS TO BRING HIM DOWN FIRST.
STEFAN, I'LL GO WITH YOU TO GET DAMON AND JEREMY AND MATT.
I'LL HELP BONNIE GET WHAT SHE NEEDS. WE'LL MEET YOU GUYS THERE.
THAT'S NOT CREEPY...

DAMON!
ELENA, WAIT--!
WHOA...
IT'S OKAY. THAT'S NOT YOU. I CAN HELP YOU CONTROL IT.
ELENA, ACCEPT WHO YOU ARE. EMBRACE IT.
JEREMY, I'M COMING!

HAUNTED HOUSE

I GO LEFT, YOU GO RIGHT.



BAM!
NO. NOT AGAIN. I CAN'T BREATHE--

THANKS.
I KNOW IT HASN'T BEEN EASY FOR YOU SINCE YOU CAME BACK. BUT I'M HERE FOR YOU, STEFAN. I WILL ALWAYS BE HERE.

BUT WHERE'S DAMON?

VERVAIN...
HAHAHAH
HOPE YOU'RE WELL RESTED FOR THE MAIN EVENT.
IT REALLY IS GOING TO BE THE MOST FANTASTIC SHOW ON EARTH.

CLUNK
Crank me!
BAM
IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA PLAY YOUR CIRCUS GAMES, YOU GOT ANOTHER THING COMIN'--
ARGH!
PAIN IS A GREAT MOTIVATOR, DAMON. I HAVE TO GET YOU READY FOR THE BIG EVENT.

MMF!
MAKE A SOUND, AND I'LL TEAR OUT YOUR CAROTID ARTERY.
ALL I KNOW IS THERE'S A BIG EVENT GOING DOWN IN AN HOUR. SOME NEW PERFORMER. SPECIAL ATTRACTION.
NOT GOOD ENOUGH. TELL US HOW TO GET IN.
ELENA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ELENA, HE DOESN'T KNOW. LET GO.
I CAN GIVE YOU A MAP OF THE CIRCUS. THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT!
SORRY. I SORTA LOST IT FOR A SECOND.
IT'S OKAY. WE CAN FIND DAMON ON OUR OWN.

MEANWHILE
I'LL STALL THE GILMORE GIRLS.
CAROLINE--?
VERVAIN.
LOOK AT THEIR EYES.
THOSE ARE EITHER REALLY EXPENSIVE SPECIALTY CONTACTS, OR--
WE JUST FOUND A CLUE.

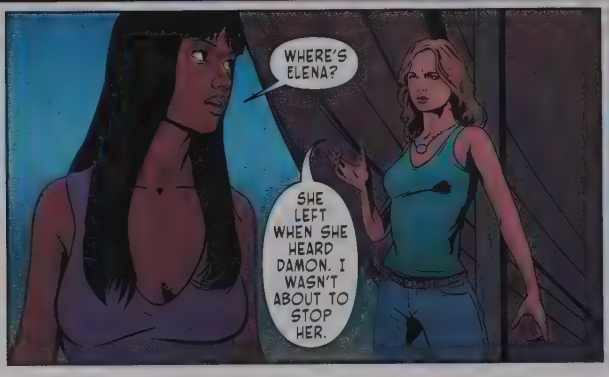
WHAM
I HAVE VAMP-HEARING, LADY.
BON, I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M GOING TO STOP THIS PSYCHO FAMILY WITHOUT KILLING THEM.
I MAY NOT HAVE MY MAGIC. BUT I DO HAVE THIS.
GRAMS ALWAYS SAID TO HAVE PROTECTION AGAINST SUPER-NATURAL AND HUMAN DANGER.
YOU ARE NO LONGER UNDER THE RINGLEADER'S CONTROL.
COMPULSION WON'T WORK ON THESE PEOPLE UNTIL WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE RINGLEADER.
WE BETTER CALL MY MOM AND TELL HER TO SAVE US SOME COTTON CANDY.

IF THEY HAVEN'T MOVED MATT AND JEREMY, THEY SHOULD STILL BE BY THE STAGE NEXT TO THE ANIMAL CAGES.
YOU TWO GO AFTER MATT AND JEREMY. I'LL GO FIND DAMON.
BE SAFE, STEFAN. I CAN'T LOSE YOU AGAIN.
ARE WE INTERRUPTING SOMETHING?
WE CAN ALWAYS COME BACK.
LADIES, LOOKS LIKE IT'S OUR TURN TO SAVE THE DAY. AGAIN.

WONDERING IF YOU GUYS CAN HELP ME FIND SOMEONE.
HIS NAME'S DAMON. HE'S ABOUT MY HEIGHT. BLUE EYES, GOOD-LOOKING. NEVER SHUTS UP.
RING A BELL?
DAAANG
DEEING
UGGH!

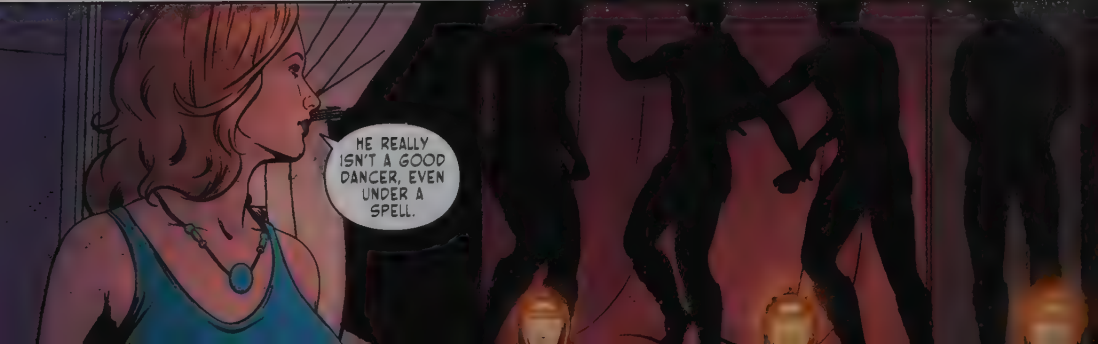
ANYONE ELSE FIND THIS CREEPY?
OUR BOYS ARE IN THE BACK ROW. OUCH. THEY DESERVE SECOND ROW AT LEAST.
PHESMATOS SIMPREM UDOM...
IS IT WORKING?
NO.
I RECOGNIZE ALL OF THESE PEOPLE. THAT GUY OVER THERE IS AN INSURANCE BROKER. BUT THOSE EYES...
THE COLORS-- THEY MATCH THE RINGLEADER'S PENDANT. I KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO...

I'LL KILL ALL OF YOU...
DAMON?
COUGH
IT'S A TRAP.
EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU. DEAD.
DAMON.
ELENA...? GREAT.


WHERE'S ELENA?
SHE LEFT WHEN SHE HEARD DAMON. I WASN'T ABOUT TO STOP HER.

GOOD, 'CAUSE I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME. AND YOU'RE NOT GONNA LIKE IT.
WHAT?
SNAP MATT'S NECK.
WHOA.

HAS EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN LOST THEIR MINDS?
NO WAY AM I DOING THAT.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN SEE TO BREAK THE TRANCE.


HE REALLY ISN'T A GOOD DANCER, EVEN UNDER A SPELL.

ON...?
EFAN?
HELLO?
THE
EVENT IS
ER WAY!
DAMON, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE, STRANGER...
...UNLESS I'M DRAGGING YOUR DEAD BODY OUT OF THIS TENT.

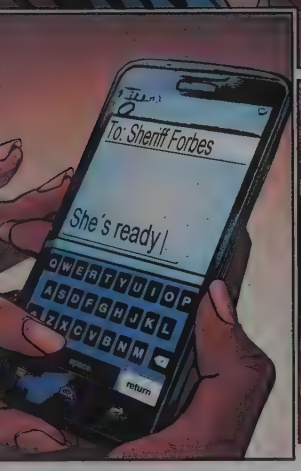
NO... YOU'RE--
FIRE...
DON'T WORRY, EVERYONE. THIS IS A FIGHT TO THE DEATH.
DAMON, IT'S ME. STOP.
YOU'LL BURN ME ALIVE.
C'MON!
YOU CALL THIS A FIGHT?
WE WANNA SEE BLOOD!
WHICH CONTENDER WILL SURVIVE? PLACE YOUR BETS RIGHT NOW!

BAM!
KATHERINE?
MON, S ME.
STEFAN.
IT WILL ALWAYS BE STEFAN.
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU PSYCHOTIC BITCH.
KATHERINE ISN'T HERE. IT'S AN ILLUSION.
YOU'RE DISAPPOINTING ME.
THE RINGLEADER IS MESSING WITH YOU.
FATHER?

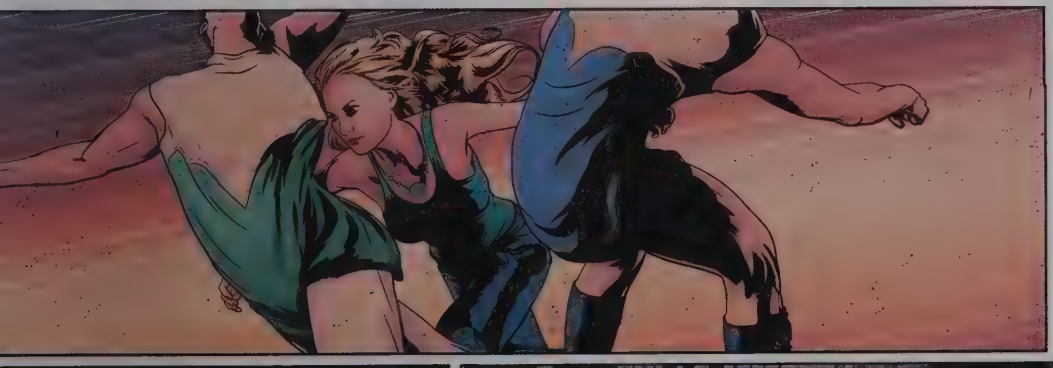
STEFAN, DON'T--
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
YOU'RE WORTHLESS. YOU'LL NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING. YOU RE A STAIN ON HE SALVATORE NAME.
SHUT UP!
AAAHH!
OH, MY GOD. STEFAN!
NO...

WE NEED A PLAN B. I AM NOT SNAPPING MATT'S NECK.
WELL. THERE'S ALWAYS THIS.
PEPPER SPRAY?
THAT'S A PRETTY SHORT-RANGE SOLUTION, BONNIE.
HOW GOOD ARE YOUR ACTING SKILLS, CARE?
ARE YOU KIDDING? I PLAYED COSETTE IN MY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF LES MIS.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR NEXT ROLE--AS A VAUDEVILLE PERFORMER?
I THINK I CAN HANDLE A CRAPPY MIME SHOW.
CAROLINE MAY BE ABLE TO PERFORM HER WAY ONSTAGE, BUT SHE'LL NEED AN ESCAPE PLAN...

ARGH!
STEFAN?
YOU HAD ME WORRIED. C'MON. I'M GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE.
STEFAN, HURRY.
ALWAYS THE HERO, STEFAN--
THIS IS REAL. IT'S. ME. I'M HERE.
I KNOW. BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE.
CALM DOWN--
YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE WITH ELENA. YOU BLEW IT. BUT SHE WAS HAPPY WITH ME...UNTIL YOU SHOWED UP AGAIN.
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT.
ON THE CONTRARY, BROTHER. THIS IS THE TRUTH--
THE TRUTH IS, YOU'RE A DICK.


To: Sheriff Forbes
She's ready
QWERTYUIOP
ASDFGHJKL
ZXCVBNM
return

SpSSSSSS
sSSSS
AGHH!



THIS WAY, CAROLINE!
I GUESS THERE'S NO ENCORE TONIGHT.

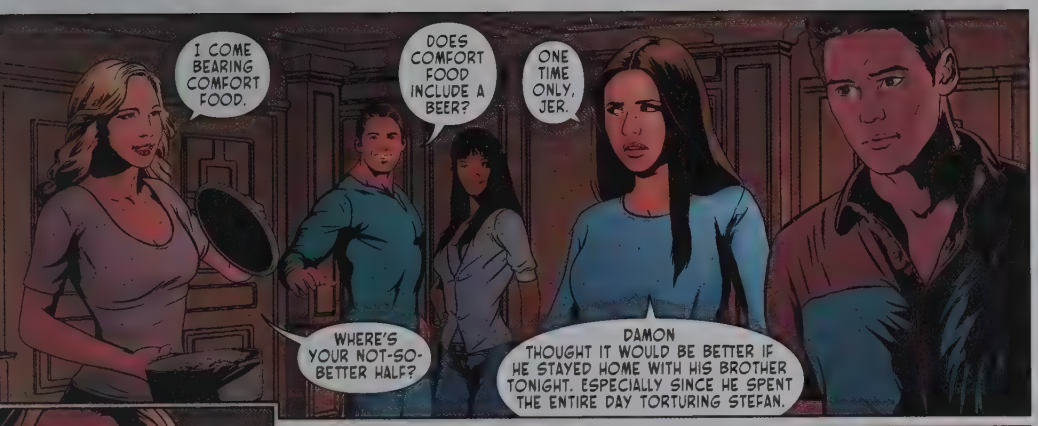
WHERE'S MY MOM? SHE SAID SHE WOULD MEET US HERE, RIGHT?
YEAH, RIGHT AFTER SHE TURNED OFF THE GENERATOR.

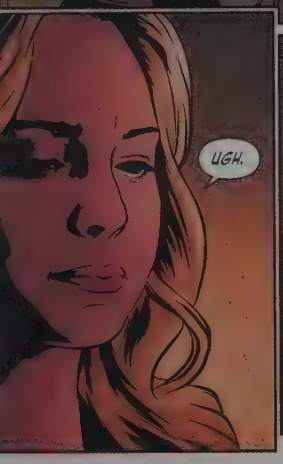
SMELL LOOD.
ONE OF THE STUPID CARNIES MUST HAVE ATTACKED HER.
WE HAVE TO GO FIND THE OTHERS.
I'M NOT LEAVING MY MOM.
GO. I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THE BOYS.
WE'RE GONNA NEED THAT PENDANT.
I'M ON IT.

PHESMATOS SIMPREM UDOM.
A GRIMOIRE SPELL WON'T WORK WITHOUT MY MAGIC. WE HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE.
BUT I CAN MMON THE HELP MAGIC ON THE OTHER SIDE...
...GRAMS--
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D ASK US FOR HELP, CHILD.
PHESMATOS SIMPREM UDOM.
PHESMATOS SIMPREM UDOM.
PHESMATOS SIMPREM UDOM.
PHESMATOS SIMPREM UDOM.
IT WORKED. IT ACTUALLY WORKED.

I'M GONNA FEED THAT CREEP TO THE TIGERS...
FORGET HIM, DAMON. WE HAVE TO GET THESE PEOPLE OUT OF THE FIRE. THEY'RE INNOCENT.
HOW DID I GET HERE?
WHERE AM I?

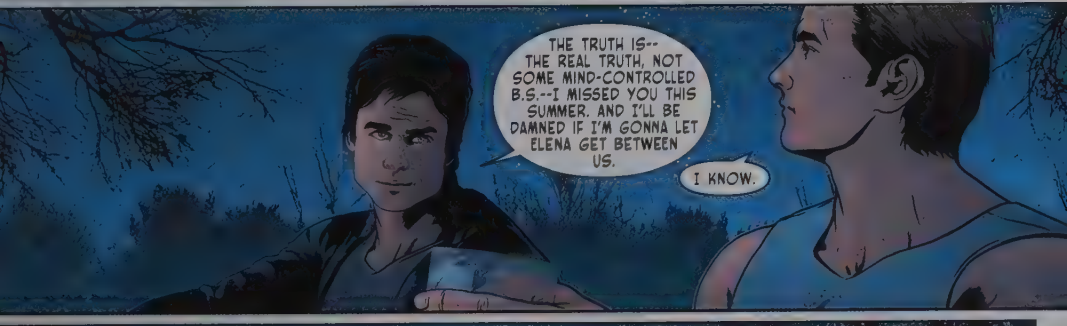
THAT'S FOR THE SONG AND DANCE.
SHOW'S OVER.
ARE YOU GOING TO DESTROY IT?
I'M GONNA TAKE IT BACK TO WHITMORE. THIS LOOKS LIKE AN 18TH CENTURY DRUID STONE. THEY LOVE THIS KIND OF STUFF AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES.

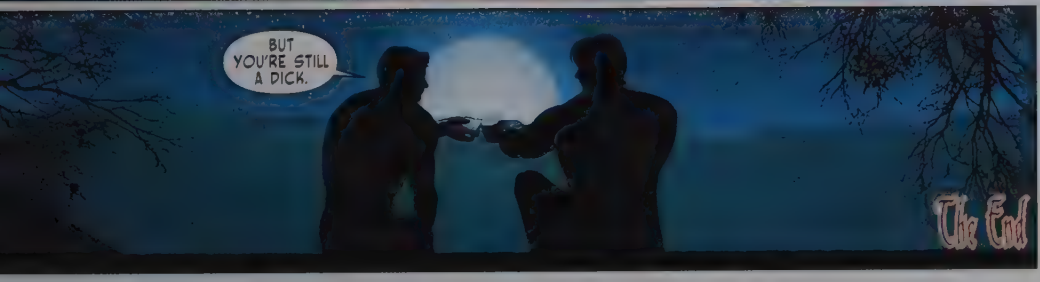

I COME BEARING COMFORT FOOD.
DOES COMFORT FOOD INCLUDE A BEER?
ONE TIME ONLY, JER.
WHERE'S YOUR NOT-SO-BETTER HALF?
DAMON THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE STAYED HOME WITH HIS BROTHER TONIGHT. ESPECIALLY SINCE HE SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY TORTURING STEFAN.


UGH.

FINE, I'LL ADMIT IT. DAMON'S DOING THE RIGHT THING.
HE ALSO GAVE UP ON HIS REVENGE TO SAVE PEOPLE FROM THE BURNING TENT--
DON'T PUSH IT.

SHOULD I REFRESH YOUR DRINK, BROTHER? IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO. YOU KNOW, FOR GOING ALL *RAMBO* ON YOU TODAY.
DON'T LET ME KEEP YOU AND YOUR TRUE LOVE APART.


THE TRUTH IS-- THE REAL TRUTH, NOT SOME MIND-CONTROLLED B.S.--I MISSED YOU THIS SUMMER. AND I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'M GONNA LET ELENA GET BETWEEN US.
I KNOW.


BUT YOU'RE STILL A DICK.
The End

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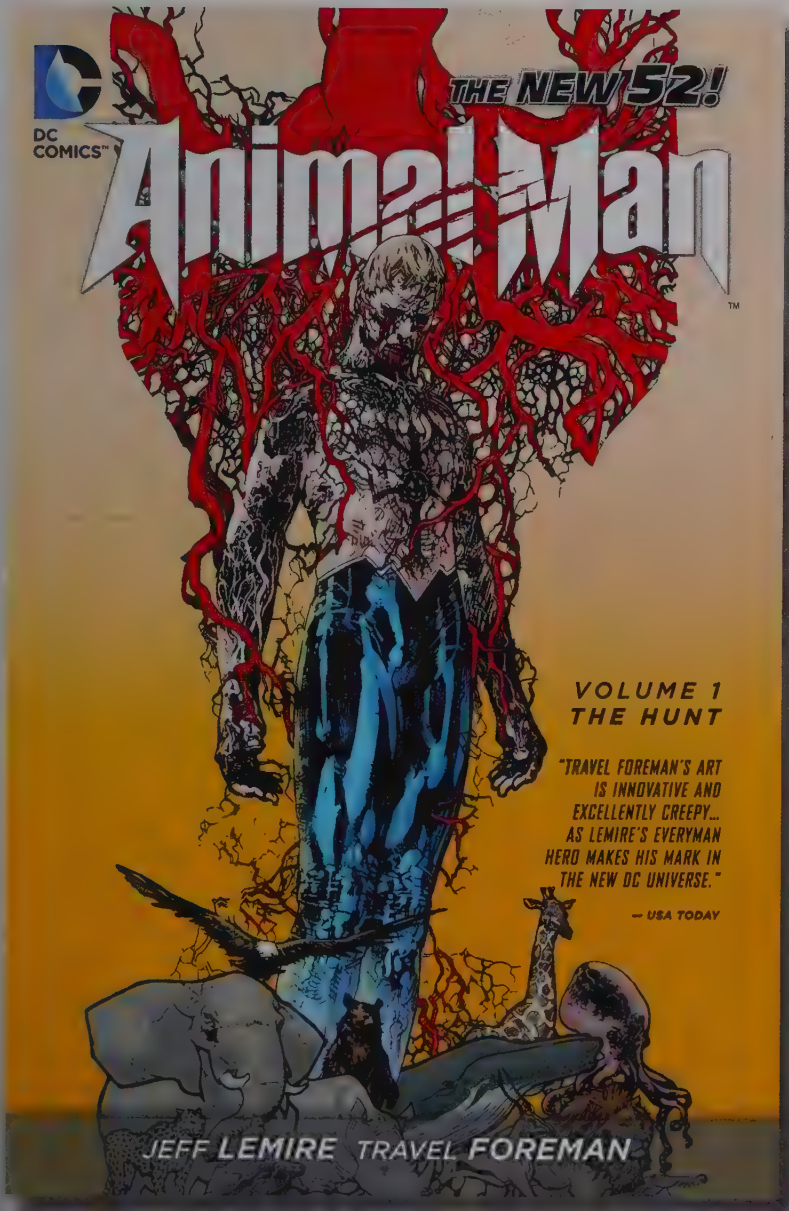
—MTV GEEK

"ANIMAL MAN has the sensational Jeff Lemire at the helm."
—ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

START AT THE BEGINNING!

ANIMAL MAN
VOLUME 1: THE HUNT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THE HUNT
"TRAVEL FOREMAN'S ART IS INNOVATIVE AND EXCELLENTLY CREEPY... AS LEMIRE'S EVERYMAN HERO MAKES HIS MARK IN THE NEW DC UNIVERSE."
— USA TODAY
JEFF LEMIRE TRAVEL FOREMAN

ANIMAL MAN VOL. 2:
ANIMAL VS. MAN

ANIMAL MAN VOL. 3:
ROTWORLD: THE RED KINGDOM

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SCOTT SNYDER, YANICK PAQUETTE AND VICTOR IBAÑEZ HAVE TURNED IN ANOTHER DISTURBINGLY BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF WORK.
– IGN
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RAISE THEM BONES
SCOTT SNYDER YANICK PAQUETTE MARCO RUDY

SWAMP THING
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with SCOTT SNYDER and YANICK PAQUETTE

SWAMP THING
VOL. 3: ROTWORLD:
THE GREEN KINGDOM

with SCOTT SNYDER, JEFF LEMIRE, and YANICK PAQUETTE

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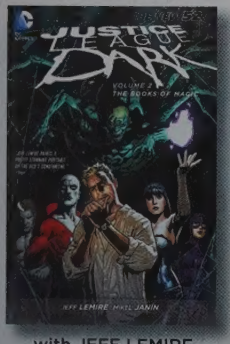
START AT THE BEGINNING!

JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK VOLUME 1: IN THE DARK

JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK VOL. 2: THE BOOKS OF MAGIC



with JEFF LEMIRE

JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK VOL. 3: THE DEATH OF MAGIC

with JEFF LEMIRE

CONSTANTINE VOL. 1: THE SPARKLE AND THE FLAME

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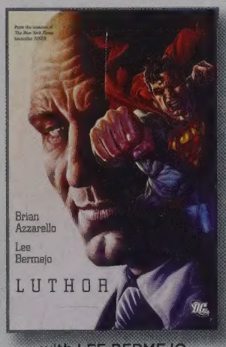
BRIAN AZZARELLO
with LEE BERMEJO

LUTHOR

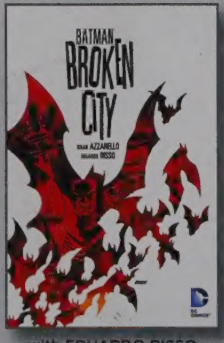


with LEE BERMEJO

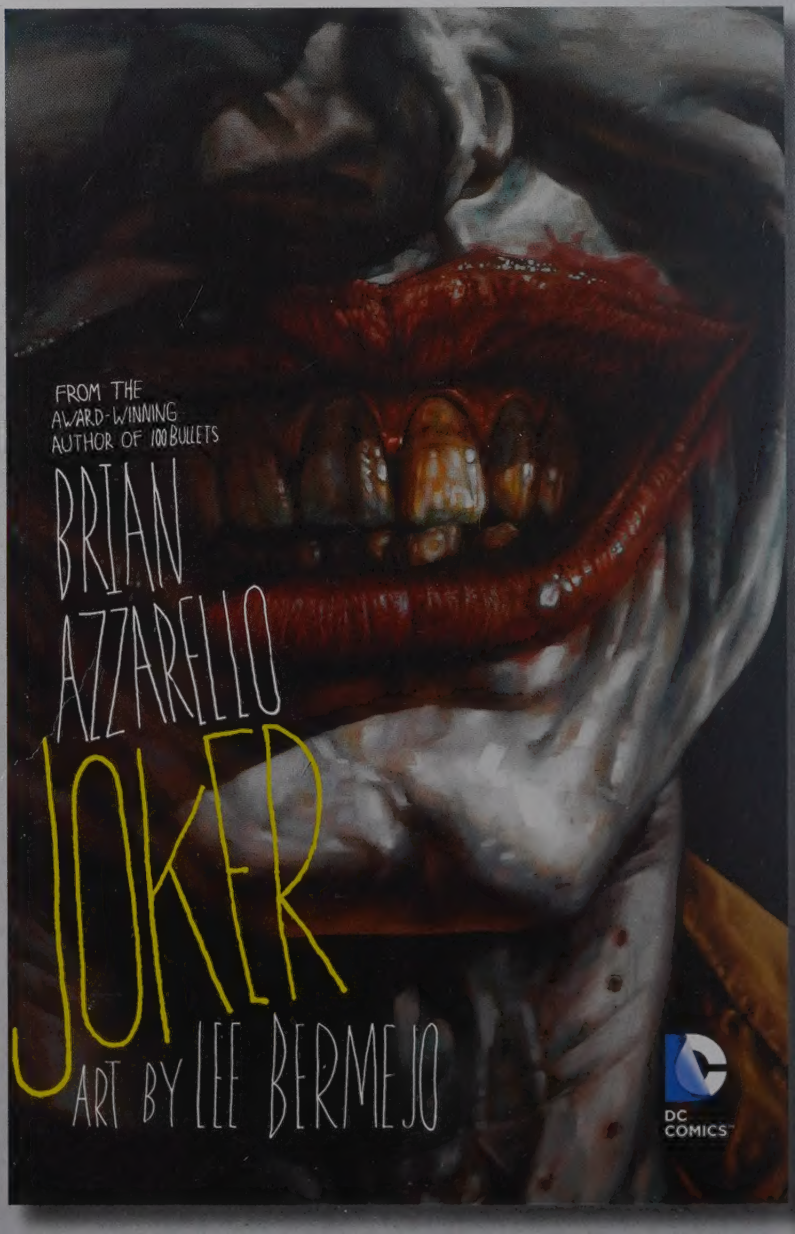
SUPERMAN:
FOR TOMORROW

with JIM LEE

BATMAN:
BROKEN CITY



with EDUARDO RISSO



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